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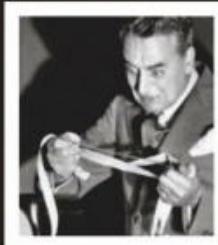
# HISTORY REVEALED

## CLASH OF THE SAMURAI

Backstabbing and bloodshed in  
medieval Japan's brutal civil war

Nancy Astor: The first  
woman in parliament

**Holy heads, hands and tongues**  
Selling relics in the Middle Ages



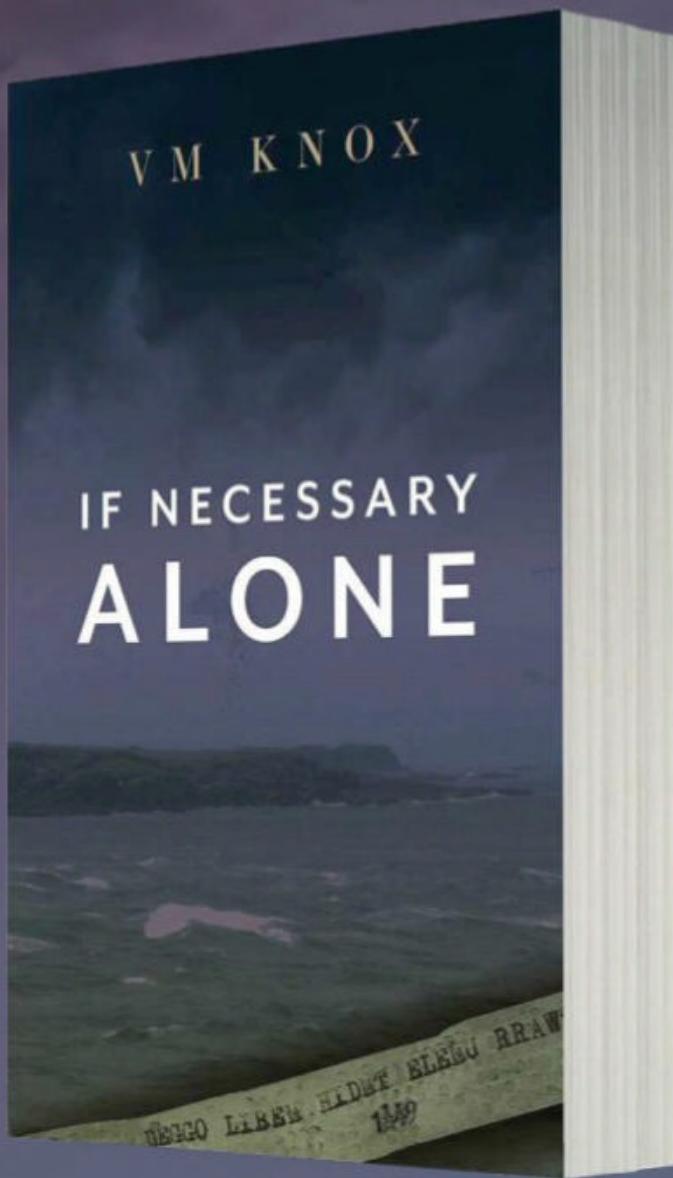
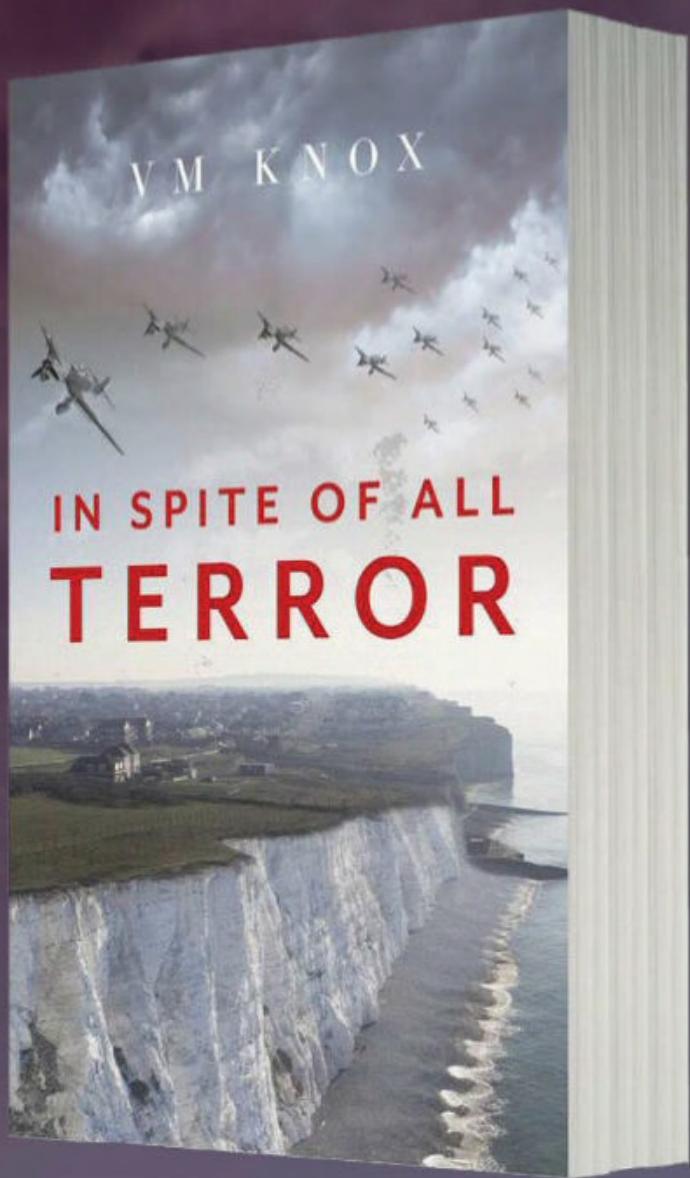
Wall Street 1929:  
The day the  
bubble burst

PLUS Nicholas Winton: the British Schindler • Lady Chatterley's Lover on trial

ISSUE 74 / NOVEMBER 2019 / £4.99



# Deception, Conspiracy, Murder and Embedded Nazi Spies



*In Spite of All Terror* is the first in a series of crime thrillers by V M Knox that mix historical fact, crime fiction and superb characterisations. Set in September 1940, when Britain stood alone against an imminent Nazi invasion, Reverend Clement Wisdom and other men from the restricted occupations, were called to join the covert Auxiliary Units. Based in East Sussex, these ordinary men by day will become saboteurs and assassins by night. Following the murders of several of Clement's team, he finds himself embroiled in the murky world of espionage where things are never what they seem.

*"Fantastic read, kept me enthralled to the last page."*  
**Janet Laurence, Former Chair, British Crime Writers' Association.**

*If Necessary, Alone* is the second thriller in the series. Clement Wisdom, now a Major in Special Duties Branch, Secret Intelligence Service, is sent to remote Caithness to investigate illicit encrypted radio transmissions. But as soon as he arrives there, an out-station wireless operator is found brutally murdered and Clement becomes entangled in a web of death and silence. Alone, and in the bitter Scottish winter, Clement must stay one step ahead of a killer if he is to remain alive.

The third book in the series is coming soon.

*"A thriller full of tension, treachery and twists. You won't put it down."* **Janet Laurence, Former Chair, British Crime Writers' Association.**

**Out now in paperback and ebook, and available from online booksellers, independent book shops and Waterstones.**

The civil war  
was Japan's own  
Wars of the Roses



### THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

That medieval Japanese samurai attended post-battle ceremonies at which they would present the severed heads of their slain enemies to the commander-in-chief for inspection. See page 46

# Honour and glory



The 12th century can be seen as a pivotal moment in Japanese history, an era which saw the beginning of the **first shōgunate** – a form of military dictatorship – and the ascendancy of one of history's most iconic warrior classes: the samurai. In our cover feature, we explore the dramatic civil war which heralded the **samurai's rise to power** – turn to page 46 to read more.

Ninety years ago, another desperate battle was taking place – this time on paper – as brokers of the New York Stock Exchange fought to minimise the financial damage of the **worst stock market crash in US history**. You can discover how the Wall Street Crash unfolded from page 64.

Elsewhere, we look at the medieval craze for holy relics – from severed hands to **tongues that defy decomposition** (page 39), as well as the incredible work of Nicholas Winton, the British humanitarian whose rescue operation brought 669 mostly Jewish children from Czechoslovakia to Britain on the eve of World War II (page 33).

Plus, with Halloween just around the corner, we'll be creaking open the doors of some of Britain's spookiest locations, introducing you to the **ghosts and ghouls** who are rumoured to haunt them. Read at your own risk, from page 57.

Have a great month!

*Charlotte*

**Charlotte Hodgman**  
Editor

**Don't miss our December issue, on sale 31 October**

## CONTRIBUTORS



### Linda Yueh

The economist and historian explains why she would love to have met the so-called father of economics, Adam Smith. See page 17



### Hareth Al Bustani

Hareth explores Japan's 12th-century civil war, and the rise of the warrior class: the samurai. See page 46



### Helen Fry

The historian discusses her new book, which examines the work of the Secret Intelligence Service in World War II. See page 90

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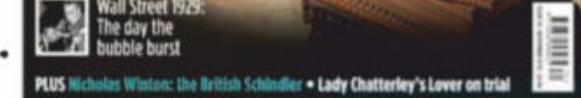
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**USPS Identification Statement** *BBC History Revealed* (ISSN 2632-6930) November 2019 is published 13 times a year (monthly, with a Christmas issue in December) by Immediate Media Bristol, LTD, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST, UK. Distributed in the US by NPS Media Group, 2 Corporate Drive, Suite 945, Shelton, CT 06484. Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is Pending at Shelton, CT and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to *BBC History Revealed*, PO Box 2015, Langhorne, PA 19047.

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Details on p24



# 1862 TOIL IN THE FIELDS

These slaves are working the sweet potato fields at the Cassina Point plantation in South Carolina during the American Civil War. On 22 September 1862, some five months after this photo was taken, US president Abraham Lincoln issued a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, declaring that all slaves in the rebel states, including South Carolina, would be freed unless the Confederate States rejoined the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation came into effect on 1 January 1863, with slavery completely abolished in 1865. South Carolina itself played a major role in the slave trade, with almost half of all enslaved Africans entering the US through the port city of Charleston. At one point, the number of slaves outnumbered the rest of the state's population.

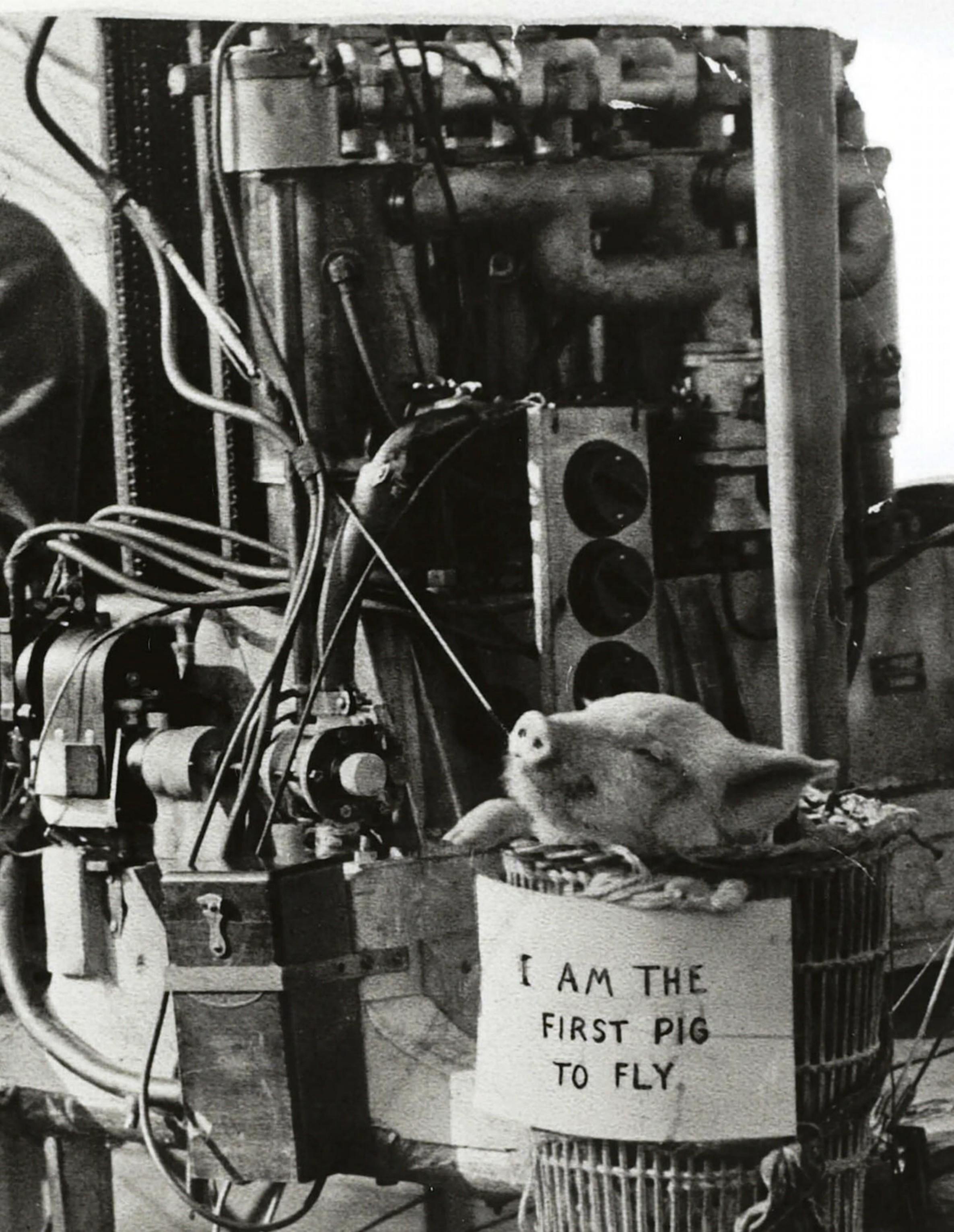




# 1909 WHEN PIGS FLY

Avid aviator John Moore-Brabazon became the first Englishman to make an officially recognised aeroplane flight in May 1909. That October, he completed a circular mile flight, winning £1,000, despite a bystander claiming that a pig flying would be more likely than him succeeding. On 4 November, Moore-Brabazon placed a pig in a basket attached to his plane's wing-strut. He took the animal up into the skies, proving the doubter doubly wrong, and completing what's thought to be the first live cargo flight.



A black and white photograph of a pig in a hot air balloon basket. The pig is sitting upright, facing left, with its front legs resting on the edge of the basket. The basket contains some equipment and a small sign. The background shows the interior of a hot air balloon with various cables and structural elements.

I AM THE  
FIRST PIG  
TO FLY.





# 1949 SEEKING SAFETY

Fleeing persecution and violence, Chinese refugees flock to Hong Kong following the proclamation of the People's Republic of China, on 1 October 1949, and the start of communist rule. Hong Kong experienced an influx of refugees during and after the Chinese Civil War, which lasted intermittently from 1927–49. In 1947, while the conflict still raged, around 1,000 refugees a week were journeying into Hong Kong. By 1950, the number had increased to around 1,000 people per day.



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## HISTORY IN THE NEWS



**MAIN:** The University of Glasgow has agreed to set up a research centre with the University of the West Indies

**INSET:** The university also unveiled a plaque commemorating the enslaved in its chapel

### UK INSTITUTION TO PAY BACK SLAVERY PROFITS

The University of Glasgow will fund a slavery awareness centre

The University of Glasgow has become the first institution in the UK to pledge to pay back donations funded by the slave trade.

Research carried out in 2016 confirmed that, during the 18th and 19th centuries, the university benefitted from financial support from donors who gained their wealth from slavery. These donations have been estimated to have a present-day value of between £16.7 million and £198 million.

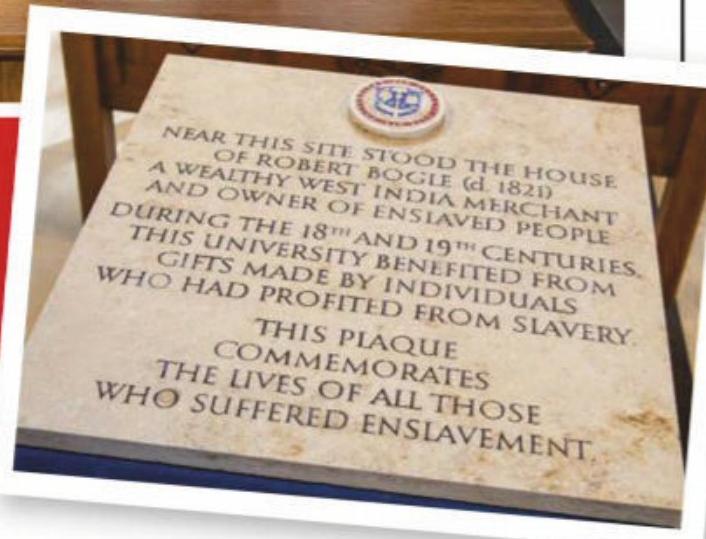
The university's report, published in 2018, said: "We deeply regret that during a crucial period of its growth and development the University

of Glasgow indirectly benefitted from racial slavery, and this is a past that clashes with our proud history of support for the abolition of both the slave trade and slavery itself. We believe that what is most important, however, is how we intend to use our knowledge of this past in a 'Programme of Reparative Justice.'

The university has pledged to raise £20 million, which will be used to create the Glasgow-Caribbean Centre for Development Research. The centre, run in partnership with the University of the West Indies, will work to raise awareness of the impact of slavery across the world.

Historically Glasgow University has taken an anti-slavery stance, giving abolitionist William Wilberforce an honorary degree and having the first African-American to receive a medical degree as an alumni - freed slave James McCune Smith.

The report is one of the first of its kind and has prompted other universities to take a look at their own historic slavery links. The University of Cambridge is examining how it can make reparations, while the University of Bristol has created an academic role to examine the history of slavery and how the university may have benefitted.



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### YEAR IN FOCUS: 1905

Mata Hari takes Paris by storm...p22





The captain's bathtub, photographed during an expedition in 1996, has completely vanished

## TITANIC WRECK IS BEING LOST TO THE SEA

The remains of the ill-fated ocean liner are decaying at a rapid rate

**T**he first divers to reach the RMS *Titanic* in almost 15 years have reported that the shipwreck is rapidly deteriorating. An international team of deep-sea explorers took part in five mini-submarine dives and recorded that some parts of the wreckage have completely disappeared, due to corrosion from bacteria. The starboard side of the officers' quarters has seen the worst decay.

Historian Parks Stephenson, advisor for the dives, told *The Times*: "That whole deck hole on that side is collapsing, taking with it the staterooms. And the deterioration is going to continue advancing. Captain's bathtub is a favourite image among *Titanic* enthusiasts and that's now gone."

Back in 2011, experts examined the damage

caused by the sea and predicted that the ship would only survive another 20 years. Samples of the bacteria discovered on *Titanic* were first identified in 2010 and named *Halomonas titanicae*.

The ocean liner has been lying on the floor of the Atlantic ever since it sank in April 1912, after striking an iceberg. As soon as the disaster happened, families of those who had perished on board lobbied to find and raise it from the depths, but the limits of technology prevented this. In fact, it wasn't until 1985 that the ship was finally found – 13 nautical miles from the position given in its distress signals.

The shipwreck is now protected by UNESCO to prevent further damage from the ravages of unscientific exploration.

## PRINCE ALBERT'S LETTERS ARE DIGITISED

The private collection of letters and photographs belonging to Prince Albert has been made available online, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of his birth. The husband of Queen Victoria was an avid patron of the arts and technology. More than 17,500 documents have been digitised by the Royal Collection – the majority of which are now available to the public for the first time. Personal letters between Victoria and Albert form part of the collection, which can be found at [albert.rct.uk](http://albert.rct.uk) – it's hoped that by 2020, 23,500 items will be accessible online.



2,528

The number of Norman coins found in Somerset by a group of metal detectorists. The silver coins, which are thought to be the second-largest Norman coin hoard in the UK, could be worth up to £5 million. The set of coins show images of Harold II and William I, who fought each other at Hastings in 1066.

## VIKINGS PREVENTED IRISH POPULATION DECLINE

The arrival of Viking settlers provided a much-needed boost to the population of Ireland in the 10th century, according to academics.

It had long been assumed that Ireland's population had continued to grow until the Great Famine of the 1840s, which resulted in the deaths of more than one million people. But researchers at Queen's University Belfast have discovered that from around AD 700 Ireland's population went through a serious decline for around 200 years – although it's not known whether this was due to war, plague, famine or another unknown cause.

The arrival of the Vikings in Ireland, in the 10th century, helped to increase the country's population, with genetic evidence suggesting that many Irish people today have Viking heritage.



Many Irish people may have a Viking lineage they weren't aware of

## HUNT IS ON FOR SKULL OF SCOTTISH 'WITCH'

A search is underway for the missing skull of a Scottish woman, accused of being a witch more than 300 years ago. Lilias Adie from Fife was accused of witchcraft in 1704. She confessed and died in prison before she could be executed, and her body was buried on Torryburn beach, under a stone slab to prevent her soul from coming back for the living. At some point, some of her bones – including her skull – were removed from the grave, with their current location unknown. Adie's grave is of great historical importance – it is the only witch's grave in Scotland known to exist.

# TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

## ARMED FOR ADULTHOOD

The Tiwi saw the arrival of puberty as a loss of the child

**P**uberty is seen as an important rite of passage in many cultures but for the Tiwi – a group of indigenous Australians who live in the Bathurst and Melville islands – the arrival of puberty is almost mourned. This armlet, collected in 1917, is made of bark and feathers and was worn during dances of mourning for the dead, known as Pukumani. It was also worn by a mother at the end of her child's puberty rituals. The child is mourned as they begin their transformation and return to society as an adult. For the Tiwi, leaving childhood means they can be initiated into the culture's secret rituals and prepare to become a spiritual being.



## MASS CHILD SACRIFICE FOUND IN PERU

The killings were believed to be an attempt to prevent bad weather

**T**he bodies of 227 children found near Huanchaco in Peru are believed to be evidence of the world's largest child sacrifice.

The victims were aged between five and 17 and are thought to have been killed 500 years ago. Many of the skeletons at the site, just north of Peru's capital Lima, still have hair and skin attached.

Archaeologists believe that the children were killed by the Chimu – a people who dominated modern-day Peru until the arrival of the Inca in the

15th century. The bodies appear to have been buried in wet weather and facing the sea; it has been suggested that they were sacrificed to appease their gods and prevent further bad weather. Cuts across the sternums indicate that the children's hearts were removed.

The scale of killings could suggest that the Chimu were becoming desperate in the face of destructive and extensive floods and storms. Similar, but smaller, burial sites have also been found in Peru within the past year.



# HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life

## EGYPT, c1910

The British occupation of Egypt in 1882, combined with ever expanding travel networks, sparked an influx of tourists to that country, all seeking a piece of the archaeological action. Visitors like these – dressed impeccably, but impractically – could be found enjoying picnics in temples and clambering to the top of pyramids. Fascination with Egypt peaked with the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922.

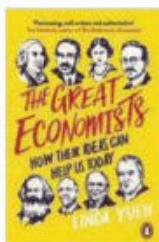
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# YOUR HISTORY

## Linda Yueh

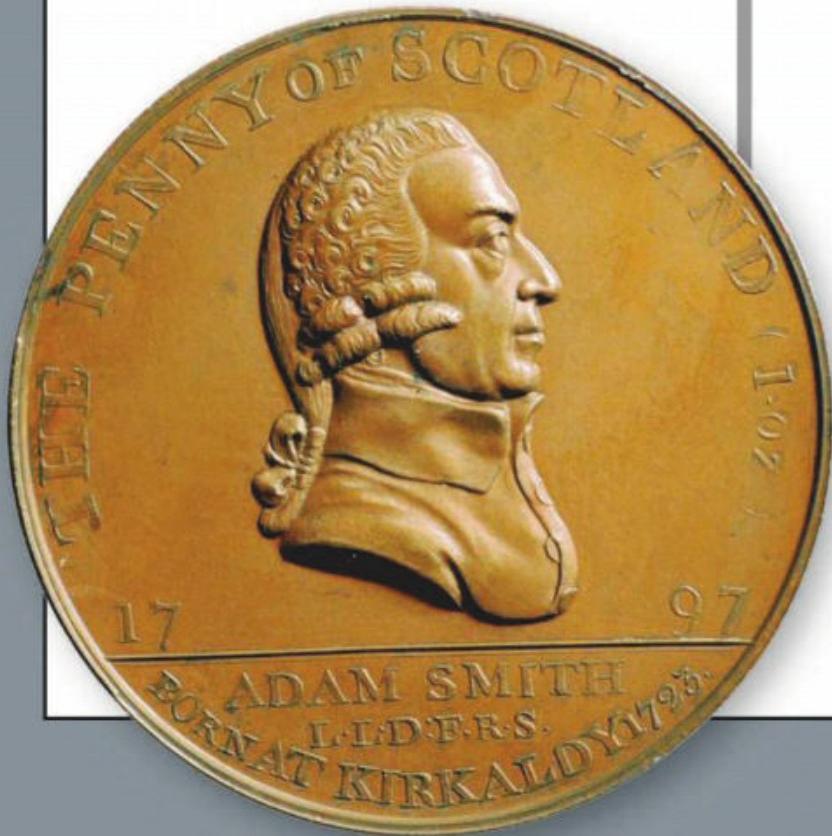
The economist and author wonders whether a 19th-century financial crisis indirectly contributed to the Cold War, and tells us why she'd love to meet the 'Queen of the Poor'



Linda's most recent book is *The Great Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today* (Viking, 2018)

Linda is a TV and radio presenter, including for BBC Radio 4 and the BBC World Service

►► *Why was the Wall Street Crash such a calamity? Find out on page 64*



Adam Smith, considered the father of economics, was known for being an eccentric

**Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?**

I would prevent the Panic of 1873 from happening. It was a financial crisis in the US that spread to Europe and triggered the Great Depression of the 19th century. There were strikes since the lack of a state-sponsored welfare system meant that there was widespread misery for millions. This event contributed to the rise of Marxism, eventually leading to the creation of the Soviet Union. It makes me wonder whether the Cold War could have been avoided if the Panic of 1873 had never happened.

**Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?**

Adam Smith. The father of economics' seminal work, *The Wealth of Nations*, is still the premise for the subject today. He witnessed the beginning of the Industrial Revolution with the introduction of factories and machines which were disrupting livelihoods whilst delivering prosperity. It must have been extraordinary for him to see how technology was transforming society. He was also known as an eccentric who walked down the street muttering to himself, leaving the impression to passersby that he was not entirely in control of his faculties.

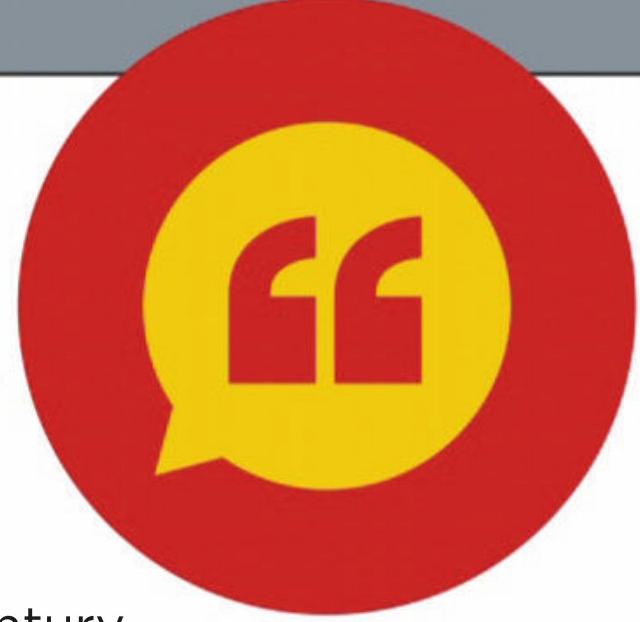
**Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?**

The home of Yale University professor Irving Fisher – 460 Prospect Street in New Haven, Connecticut. Fisher was perhaps the first great American economist, yet he's not well known. He predicted that the stock market was on a permanently high plateau just before the 1929 Wall Street Crash that wiped out his \$10 million fortune. He then forecast that the economy was about to turn around just before the second recession struck in 1937 – leaving his reputation in tatters.

**Q Who is your unsung history hero?**

The first woman to have been made a peer, Angela Burdett-Coutts. She was made a baroness by Queen Victoria in 1871 for her work on behalf of the poor. Prevented from working at Coutts Bank upon inheriting her grandfather's shares and his fortune, the richest heiress in England devoted her time – working with Coutts client Charles Dickens – to philanthropy. She was instrumental in the formation of several charities, including the RSPCA and the precursor to the NSPCC. Known to those she helped as the Queen of the Poor, Burdett-Coutts was a pioneer in social housing.

**"She was the first woman to have been made a peer"**



THE DAILY MIRROR, Saturday, November 29, 1919.  
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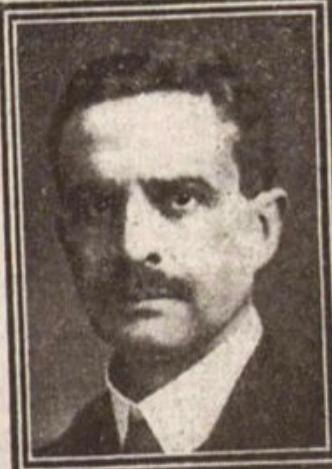
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One Penny.

PLYMOUTH ELECTS LADY ASTOR: FIRST WOMAN M.P.



The Hon. Esmond Harmsworth, who has won a splendid victory.



Viscount Astor, husband of the new M.P. His elevation to the peerage created the vacancy.



Captain W. J. West, the defeated Isle of Thanet Liberal.



A studio portrait of Viscountess Astor, the first woman M.P.



Viscountess Astor addressing a meeting. Hecklers had to be careful, for she has a ready repartee.



Group showing Viscountess Astor with her children. She is an American and one of the four beautiful Langhorne sisters.



Viscountess Astor makes a megaphone with her hands. She worked untiringly during the election campaign.

The electors of the Sutton Division of Plymouth have made history by returning Viscountess Astor as their M.P. The result of the poll was announced yesterday, the figures being received with the greatest enthusiasm, and when the new member appeared on the balcony with her little son "Billy" she tried to make a speech, but her voice was

drowned by the cheers. The result of the Isle of Thanet election was also announced yesterday, the figures showing a majority of 2,653 votes for the Hon. Esmond Harmsworth, the first anti-waste candidate to be returned. The Liberal nominee was Captain W. J. West.

# YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

## NANCY ASTOR TAKES HER SEAT IN PARLIAMENT

Less than two years after some 8.5 million women gain the vote, parliament gets its first sitting female MP

**O**n 1 December 1919, Viscountess Nancy Astor became the first female MP to take up her seat in parliament. She was a member of the Unionist party (now known as the Conservatives) for the constituency of Plymouth Sutton, winning 51.9 per cent of the vote in a by-election the previous November.

Nancy Witcher Langhorne was born in Virginia in 1879, the daughter of a railroad businessman. His fortune grew as Nancy became a teenager, allowing her to attend finishing school and enter high society. She married her first husband, Robert Gould Shaw II, when she was 18, but they divorced after a few years. Nancy moved to England in 1905 after falling in love with the country during a trip there.

Glamorous and charming, Nancy became popular in aristocratic circles and soon attracted the attention of Waldorf Astor, son of the owner of *The Observer* newspaper and also an American expatriate. They were soon married, and Nancy, as an advocate of social reform, encouraged her new husband to enter politics. He was elected for the Unionist party in Plymouth in 1910.

In November 1918, nine months after some women in Britain had won the right to vote, the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act was passed, allowing women to become MPs for the first time. Nancy, whose husband was forced to give up his seat in the House of Commons after inheriting his father's peerage in October 1919, made the decision to stand for her husband's vacant parliamentary seat in the resulting by-election. A gifted political campaigner, Nancy managed to appeal to all social classes with her wit and charm, although her vocal teetotalism lost her some

support. She could also hold her own at hustings and wasn't afraid to take on her male rivals.

As the only woman in parliament for nearly two years, Nancy faced sexism and resentment. She gained a reputation for heckling and interrupting, and reportedly remarked that her fellow MPs "would rather have had a rattlesnake than me". She worked tirelessly for welfare reforms, equal voting rights, access to the professions for women, and supported other female MPs regardless of their political party. Perhaps Nancy's biggest achievement was the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Persons under Eighteen) Act, which became known as Lady Astor's Bill. The first private member's bill by a woman to become an act of parliament, it raised the age for consuming alcohol in a public house from 14 to 18, and remains in force to this day.

After 26 years in the House of Commons and seven successful elections, Nancy retired in 1945. The end of her parliamentary career was shadowed by rumours of German sympathies and a subsequent loss in popularity, but her legacy was evident. In that same year, 24 women were elected and took their seats in parliament. ◎

Despite her wit and charm, Astor suffered on the campaign trail for her vocal teetotalism and the feeling that she was out of touch with everyday Britons



### DID YOU KNOW?

Although the first woman to take her seat in parliament, Nancy Astor was not the first woman to be elected as an MP. Irish politician Constance Markievicz was elected in 1918 for Dublin St Patrick's, but did not take her seat due to Sinn Féin's policy of abstention - they refuse their seats as they do not recognise the UK parliament's right to legislate for Ireland.



Astor is declared victorious in Plymouth Sutton, the constituency she would represent for 26 years



Viscountess Nancy Astor, the first woman in the House of Commons, talked to Mary Stocks about her early days in Parliament on an episode of *Woman's Hour*.  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03gvhp8](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03gvhp8)

# THIS MONTH IN... 1960

Anniversaries that have made history

The popularity of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* rocketed after the trial, with these women among those who grabbed copies on the first day of sale

## LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER CAUSES A MORAL STORM

Penguin Books wins landmark trial to publish 'obscene' novel

**O**n 2 November 1960, after a six-day trial, British publishing house Penguin Books was found 'not guilty' under the Obscene Publications Act for its printing of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*. The landmark ruling had a significant impact on the publishing world, paving the way for greater freedom of the written word.

*Lady Chatterley's Lover*, written by DH Lawrence, was first published privately in Florence in 1928, with a censored version following in Britain in 1932. The novel depicts an upper-class woman who embarks on an affair with her working-class gamekeeper. Her husband had been paralysed during World War I, which had created emotional and physical distance in the relationship.

As well as dealing with the controversial subjects of adultery and inter-class relationships, the novel was extremely sexually explicit and contained words that were considered unprintable at the time. Lawrence did not live to see the uproar his novel caused as he died in 1930.

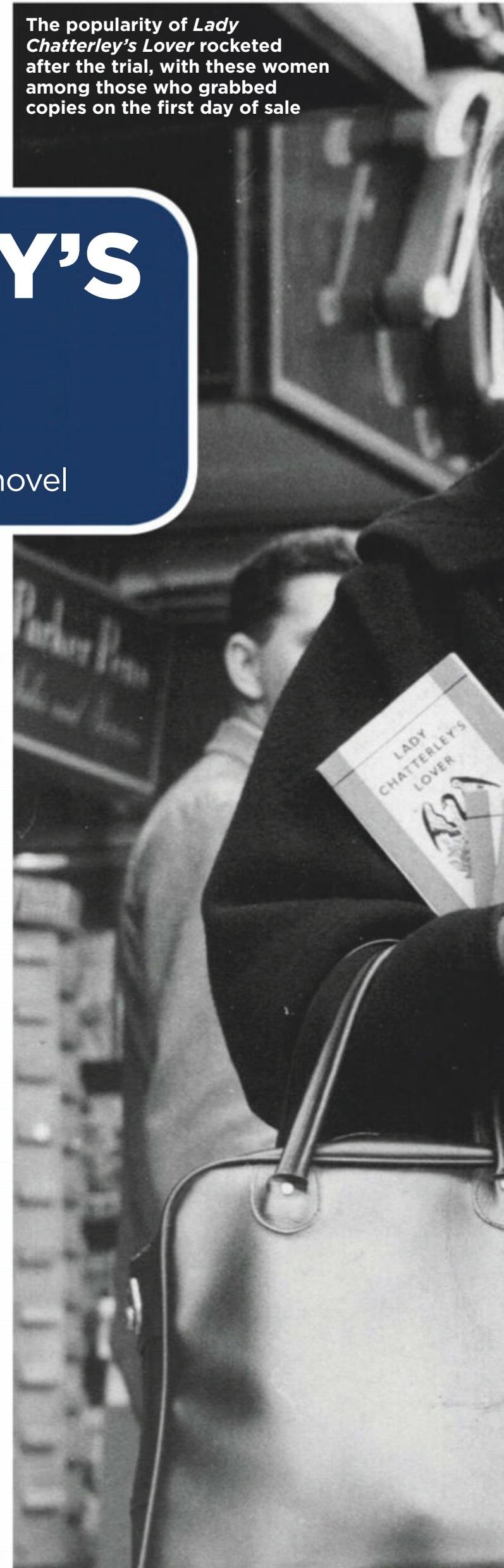
It wasn't until August 1960 that Penguin dared to attempt publishing the novel in its entirety – it sent copies to the Director of Public Prosecutions with a challenge to prosecute, which he promptly did. The previous year, the Obscene Publications Act had come into force, which prevented the publication or broadcast of material considered to be obscene: likely to deprave or corrupt. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was seen by many as an affront to the morality of society and a danger to readers. Penguin, however, believed it had a case, as the Obscene Publications Act provided a defence against prosecution if a book considered obscene could be proved to have redeeming social merit.

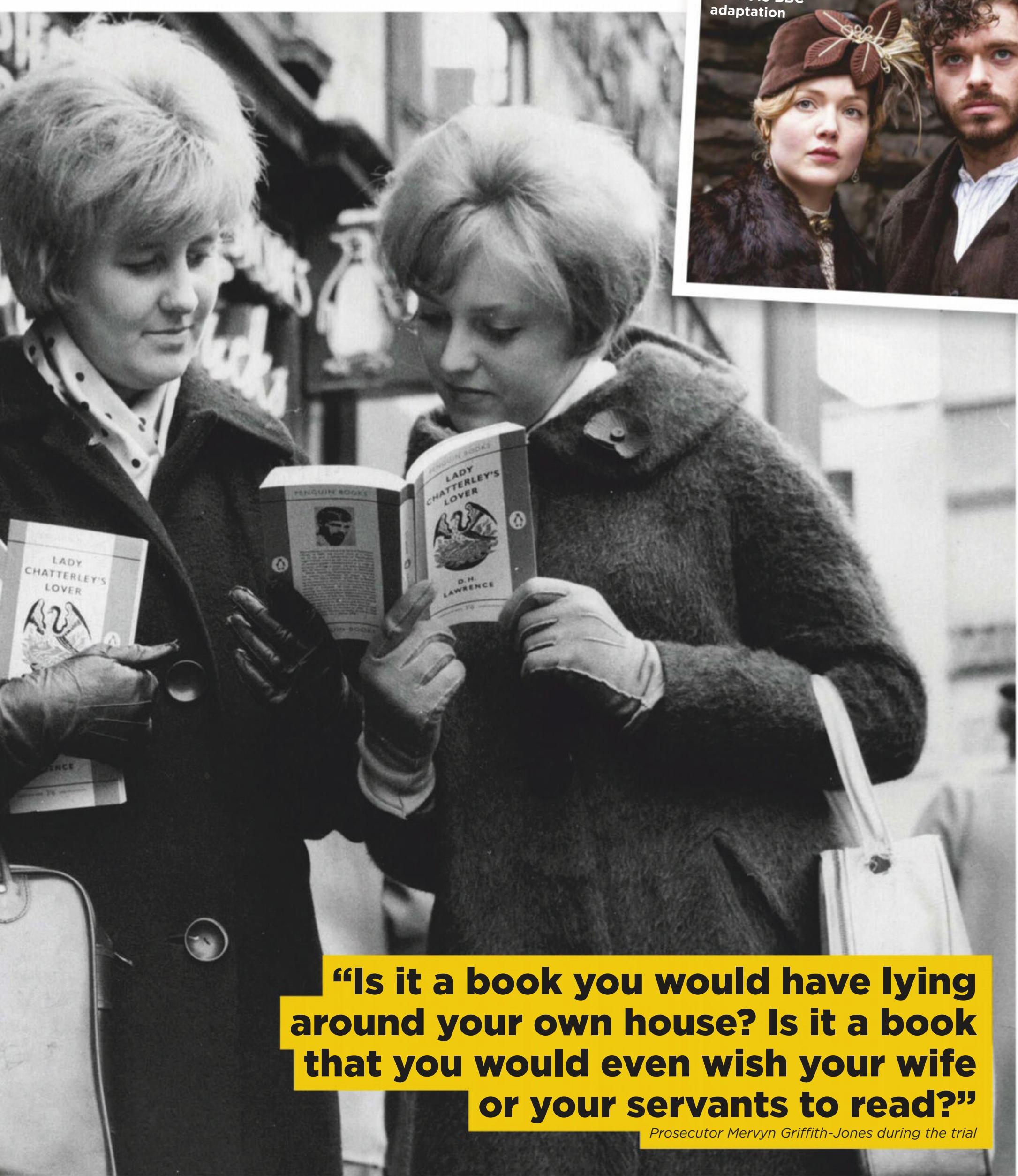
The prosecution's opening speech of the trial contained a tally of the number of 'obscene' or swear words that could be found within the book – more than 80 in total. The prosecution called no witnesses, but its arguments (such as the quote opposite) were a cause of amusement in the courtroom – perhaps a sign of changing moral attitudes in Britain. The proposed price of the novel was also raised by the prosecution as a cause for concern – at just 3s 6d, it was deemed cheap enough for almost anyone to read.

The defence called 35 witnesses to testify to the book's literary value – these comprised leading literary and religious figures, such as the novelist EM Forster. The Bishop of Woolwich's testimony led to a national newspaper running a story with the headline "A book all Christians should read". The unanimous 'not guilty' verdict highlighted how detached the establishment was becoming from popular opinion, as well as rapidly changing attitudes towards sexuality and the class system.

On the first day that the book went on sale after the trial, bookshops across Britain sold out; Selfridges claimed to have sold 250 copies in minutes, though young female shop assistants were allowed to refuse to handle it. Over the next year, more than two million copies were sold, and publishing enjoyed a new-found freedom as it became harder for material to be banned on the grounds of obscenity. Many have since seen the trial as the beginning of the sexual and social revolution that took place in the 1960s across the Western world. ◎

The 2015 BBC adaptation of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is currently available on Netflix





Holliday Granger  
and Richard  
Madden star in  
the 2015 BBC  
adaptation



**"Is it a book you would have lying around your own house? Is it a book that you would even wish your wife or your servants to read?"**

*Prosecutor Mervyn Griffith-Jones during the trial*

# YEAR IN FOCUS 1905

Snapshots of the world from one year in the past



MAR  
1905

## MATA HARI BECOMES A STAGE SUCCESS

On 13 March 1905, Dutch-born Mata Hari – having changed her name from Margaretha MacLeod and now claiming part-Indonesian descent – made her debut in Paris, mesmerising audiences with her exotic dance routines. Her first performance, in Musée Guimet – a museum of Asian art – enthralled the city's wealthy elite, and she was soon dancing at

sold-out performances in many of Europe's major capital cities. By 1912, as Hari got older, her act started to lose popularity and she became better known as a courtesan, striking up relationships and dancing for powerful men including the Crown Prince of Germany.

During World War I, French intelligence agents induced her to spy on Germany and she

became a double agent, feeding information to German Intelligence in the hope of receiving some in return. In 1917, she was arrested by the French authorities as a German spy and eventually executed by firing squad. Hari always maintained that she was working for the Allied cause, but there is still debate over where her loyalties truly lay.



MAY  
1905

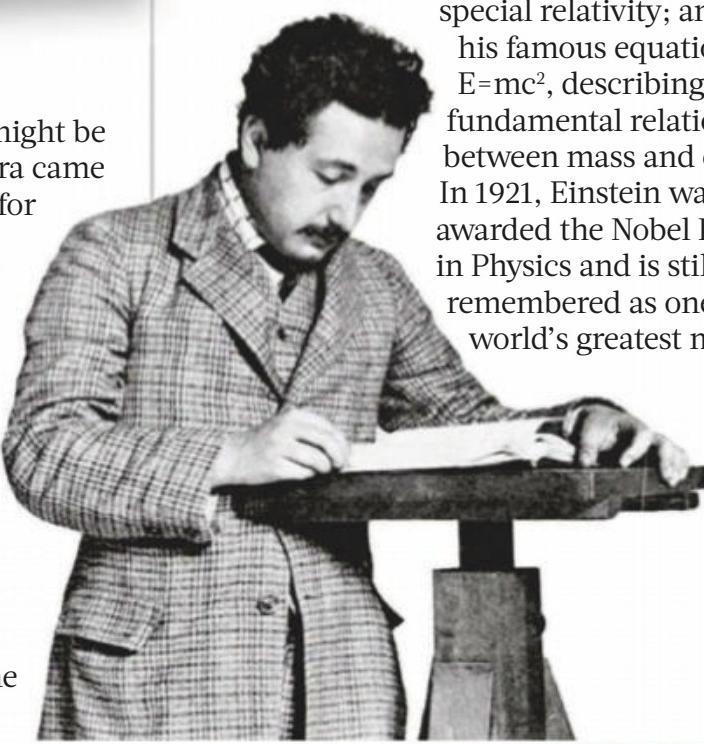
## LAS VEGAS IS BORN

The original 'Sin City' has a shorter history than might be assumed. In the 1820s, Mexican scout Rafael Rivera came across natural springs in Nevada while searching for a trade route between California and Mexico. He named the area Las Vegas – meaning 'the meadows' in Spanish. On 15 May 1905, the land was auctioned off by the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad company after its railway had been completed, founding Las Vegas as a city and ideal rail stop. Gambling, prostitution and drinking prospered beneath the legal radar and the city became notorious for quickie marriages. With the construction of the Boulder Dam in the 1930s (later renamed the Hoover Dam), workers flooded the city, which saw an increase in the number of casinos, and it was soon attracting some of the biggest entertainers in the world.

DURING  
1905

## EINSTEIN'S MIRACULOUS YEAR

In 1905, aged just 26, German-born physicist Albert Einstein (below) published four of his biggest theories, stunning the academic world with what would later become known as his *annus mirabilis* (miracle year) papers. They detailed his explanation of the photoelectric effect (the emission of electrons when light hits a material); proof of the existence of atoms; the theory of special relativity; and his famous equation  $E=mc^2$ , describing the fundamental relationship between mass and energy. In 1921, Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics and is still remembered as one of the world's greatest minds.



JAN  
1905

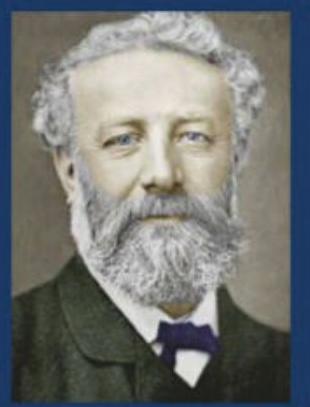
## BLOODY SUNDAY IN RUSSIA

What started as a peaceful protest in St Petersburg turned into a massacre, sparking a period of unrest that ultimately paved the way for revolution. On 22 January 1905, a group of disgruntled workers marched towards the Winter Palace holding images of Tsar Nicholas II, religious icons and their petitions for reform, which included demands for better working conditions. The Tsar wasn't in residence, but nonetheless took much of the blame after his guards attacked the crowds, killing at least 100 people and injuring many more. The events of 'Bloody Sunday' spawned protests and mutinies across the country, eventually forcing Nicholas to concede that Russia would become a constitutional monarchy.

## DIED: 24 MARCH 1905

JULES VERNE

Regarded as the father of science fiction, French novelist Jules Verne was sent to Paris to study law as a young man, but fell in love with literature and the theatre instead. His works include *Around the World in Eighty Days*, which inspired others, such as journalist Nellie Bly, to race around the globe against the clock.



## BORN: 26 JAN 1905

MARIA VON TRAPP

Finding fame after her story was brought to life in the musical *The Sound of Music*, Austrian-born Maria Kutschera entered Nonnberg Abbey at the age of 19, intending to become a nun. She was later sent to be a governess for one of the daughters of widower Georg von Trapp, and left the convent to marry him.

## ALSO IN 1905...

### 26 JANUARY

The largest diamond ever found is unearthed near Pretoria, South Africa. Weighing more than 3,000 carats, it took three men (working 14 hours a day) a total of eight months to cut and polish nine large stones from the original diamond.

### 31 MARCH

Kaiser Wilhelm visits Tangier to support an independent Morocco, angering France, which wanted to increase its influence, and igniting the First Moroccan Crisis.

### 13 OCTOBER

Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney of the Women's Social and Political Union interrupt a Liberal Party meeting in Manchester – marking the start of the militant campaign for women's suffrage.

### 28 NOVEMBER

The original form of Irish Republican party Sinn Féin is born. The name in Irish means 'We Ourselves', promoting the idea of Irish sovereignty.

### UNKNOWN

*Tyrannosaurus rex* is named by Henry Fairfield Osborn, future president of the American Museum of Natural History.

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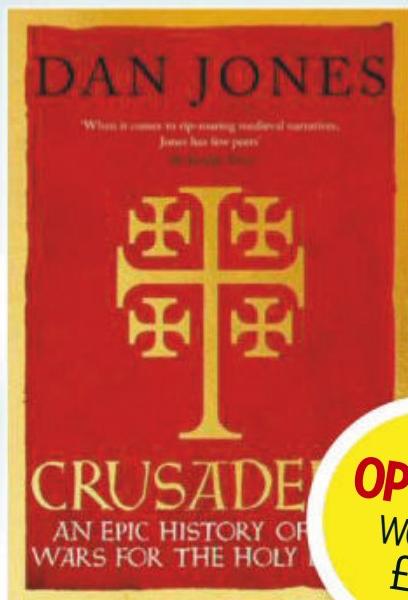


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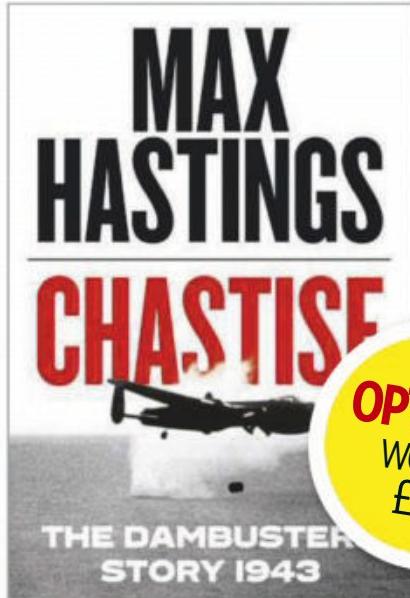


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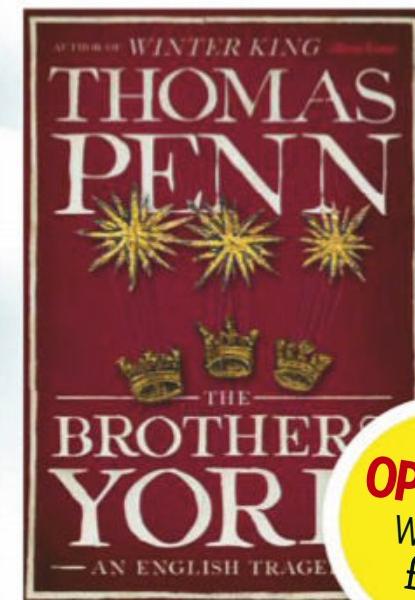


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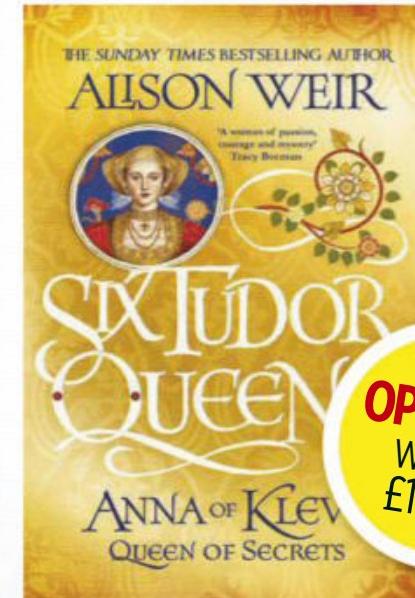


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JOHN WARD



# PIRATE JOHN WARD

He was outlandish and fearless, terrorising the Mediterranean with a complete absence of morals – little wonder he was an inspiration for Capt Jack Sparrow in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films. **Giles Milton** tells the story of perhaps the most familiar blackguard that you've never heard of



**T**he cannon were pumping shot into the hull of the vessel, sending lethal splinters of shrapnel through the air. A fire had broken out below the main deck and the crew was attempting to douse the flames. The sea battle was as terrifying as it was dangerous, yet a lone attacker could be seen leading from the front. Captain John Ward was urging his men forwards as they tried to grapple and board the vessel.

The *Reniera e Soderina* was a huge Venetian carrack laden with silks, indigo and other rich merchandise. If Ward succeeded in capturing her, he would be rich beyond his wildest dreams – the crowning glory of a glittering piratical career. Yet it was a career that had begun with very little promise. None of Ward's friends or contemporaries thought him particularly talented, and none predicted that he would become the richest and most outlandish pirate of his age.

Though they reigned before the Golden Age of Piracy – commonly said to have begun in 1650 – both Elizabeth I and James I were dogged by pirates: Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins and Sir Richard Grenville (along with countless others) would make their fortunes on the lawless high seas. Yet it was the little-known John Ward who was to have the most surprising career of all.

Born into an impoverished family c1553, his early life was spent fishing the tidal waters of his native Kent. An out-and-out wastrel who spent much of his time getting drunk, he would "sit melancholy, speak doggedly ... [and] repine at other men's good fortunes".

The first inkling of his future talents came with the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Ward was one of many mariners who turned to privateering – a semi-legalised form of piracy in which Queen Elizabeth I issued licences to anyone intending to plunder ships that belonged to the hated Spanish.

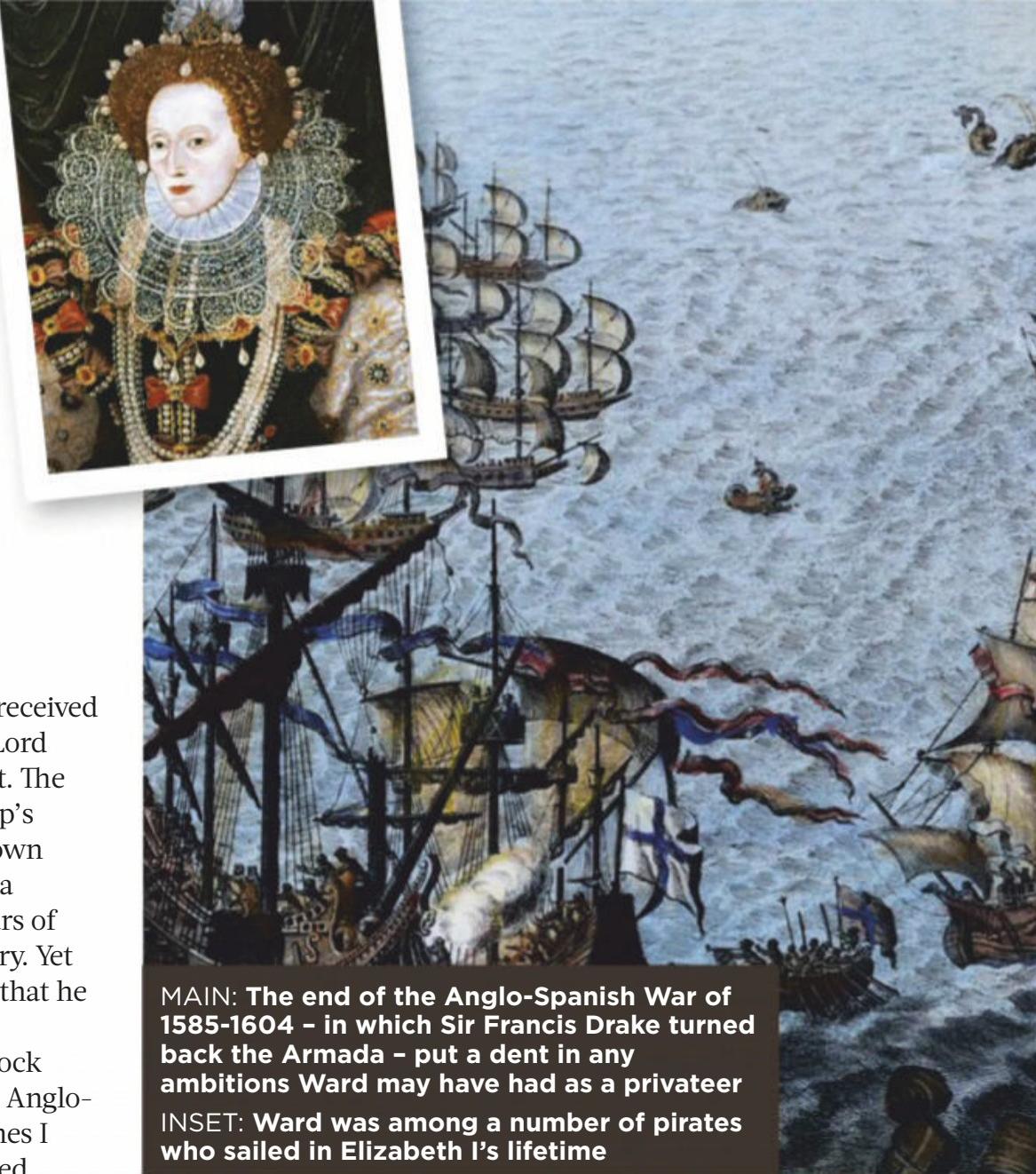
### A PIRATE'S LIFE

The deal was simple: the Crown received five per cent of the loot and the Lord Admiral's agents took 10 per cent. The rest was divided between the ship's owner and the crew. It is not known whether Ward was successful as a privateer, for these formative years of his career have been lost to history. Yet it was certainly during this time that he learned his piratical tricks.

Ward's seafaring life took a knock in the summer of 1604 when the Anglo-Spanish war came to an end. James I – successor to Elizabeth I – banned all privateering expeditions and Ward found himself out of work. According to an acquaintance, Andrew Barker, he bemoaned his ill fortune.

"Where are the days that have been ... when we might sing, swear, drink, drab [ie whore] and kill men as freely as your cake-makers do flies?" Ward yearned for the recent past, "when the whole sea was our empire, where we rob at will".

Ward was lodging in Portsmouth when he heard a rumour that was to change his life. A small merchant ship was anchored in the harbour, and it



MAIN: The end of the Anglo-Spanish War of 1585-1604 – in which Sir Francis Drake turned back the Armada – put a dent in any ambitions Ward may have had as a privateer

INSET: Ward was among a number of pirates who sailed in Elizabeth I's lifetime

was stashed with the possessions of a Catholic merchant about to move from England to France. Ward persuaded 30 of his seafaring comrades to seize the vessel and its treasure. His little band stormed the ship that very night, overpowering the two watchmen and clamping them in irons. They then set sail into the English Channel.

When Ward went to examine his ill-gotten treasure, he received a rude awakening. The ship's Catholic owner had got wind of their plot and moved all

## WHO WERE THE PIRATES?

Sir Francis Drake, Sir Richard Grenville, Sir Martin Frobisher and Sir John Hawkins were among the most illustrious adventurers of Elizabethan England. All four also indulged in piracy. Their principal target was the hated Spanish, whose heavily laden treasure ships presented an enticing prey as they sailed between South America and Spain.

During Drake's 1577-80 circumnavigation of the globe, he captured the Spanish ship *Nuestra Senora de la Concepcion*: she was laden with 26 tons of silver and nearly 36 kilograms of gold, along with tons of plate and scores

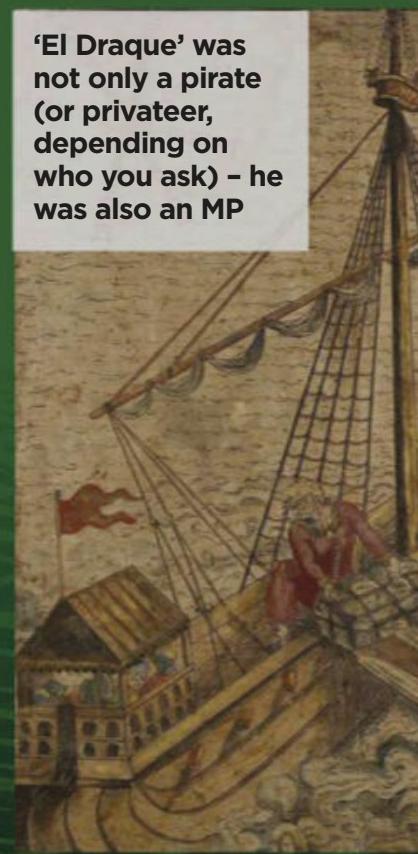
of priceless jewels. When Drake returned to England, he wisely presented his treasure to the Queen, unsure as to whether he would be praised or executed. In the event, Elizabeth knighted him, perhaps because her half-share of the booty exceeded the rest of the crown's income for that entire year.

Drake was to be celebrated as one of the great heroes of Elizabethan England, but in Spain he was reviled as a pirate: King Philip of Spain offered a 20,000 ducat reward for his capture – the equivalent of £6 million in today's money.

In the aftermath of the Spanish Armada's defeat, more than 100 prize ships were brought into English ports each year. They were worth an estimated £200,000, the equivalent of some 15 per cent of annual imports to the country.

According to a later Venetian ambassador, "nothing is thought to have enriched the English ... as the wars with the Spaniards in the time of Queen Elizabeth. All were permitted to go privateering and they plundered not only the Spaniards but all others indifferently, so that they enriched themselves by a constant stream of booty."

'El Draque' was not only a pirate (or privateer, depending on who you ask) – he was also an MP





his possessions ashore. Ward had stolen a vessel with no valuables whatsoever.

Off the Isles of Scilly, his men spotted a French merchant ship. Ward hailed her, gave the sign of friendship and passed "many hours in courteous discourse" with the captain. But he eventually revealed his true colours, raising his piratical battle-cry for the first time. Within seconds, his men grappled the vessel and boarded it, seizing both ship and crew. Ward had scored his first success.

A big ship required a big crew. Ward sailed to Cawsand in Cornwall and convinced a band of smugglers and fishermen to sign up for what he promised would be the voyage of a lifetime. Their destination was the Mediterranean, where there were known to be rich pickings. Traders, merchantmen and galleons – all were to be targeted by Ward and his band.

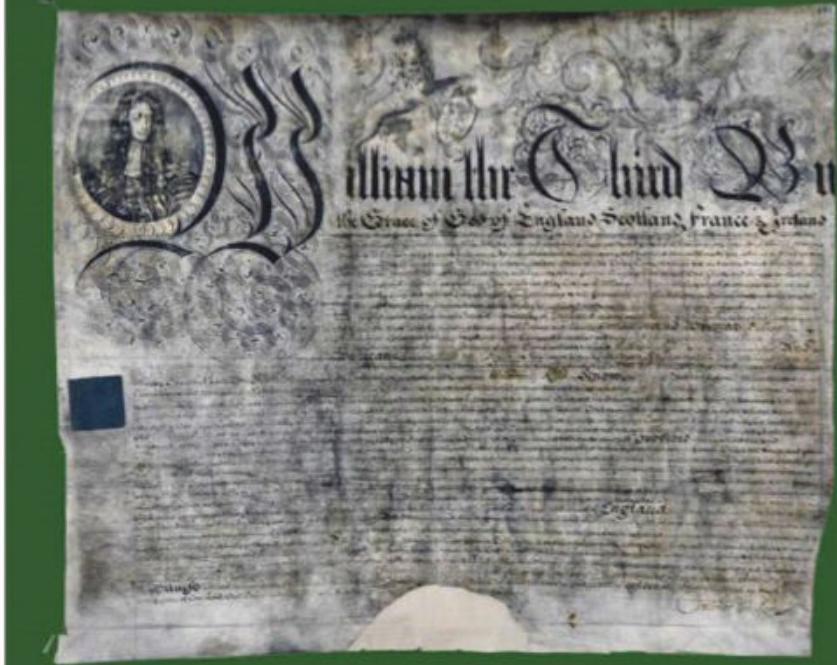
Their first prize was a coastal trader laden with merchandise. Their second was a two-masted transport

## PIRATE OR PRIVATEER?

The distinction between pirate and privateer is subtle but important. A pirate is a lawless robber who preys on ships with the intention of stealing the vessel and its cargo. A privateer is acting under a commission, known as a letter of marque.

This semi-legal commission empowers the privateer to attack enemy shipping, on the understanding that the booty will be shared between the crown, ship owner, captain and crew.

Privateering reached its zenith in the aftermath of the Spanish Armada, when many of England's illustrious sea captains turned to privateering. Sir Francis Drake was the most famous, but others were no less successful.



**Letters of marque transformed pirates from outlaws to agents of the state – in name at least. This one, issued to Captain Kidd in 1695, gave him free rein to hunt pirates**

ship used to carry galley slaves. With these ships in tow, Ward headed for the port of Algiers, which had been a haven for pirates for many decades. He was out of luck. Just a few months earlier, the city had been attacked by an English privateer named Richard Gifford, and the city's governor was understandably ill-disposed towards Englishmen.

Ward sailed instead for the port of Salé on the Atlantic coast of Morocco, another locale frequented by vagabonds. Its pirates had been attacking merchant ships for years, and had grown so bold that they'd started to raid the shores of England and France, seizing entire villages and selling them in the great slave markets of North Africa.

In Salé, Ward found himself in like-minded company. A number of English and Dutch pirates were already living in the port and they agreed to join his team. Ward sold his booty, trimmed his ships and headed for Tunis, in which he hoped to make



### DID YOU KNOW?

Among the indignities Drake inflicted on the Spanish was a pre-Armada raid on Cadiz in 1587 – derisively known as the 'Singeing of the King of Spain's Beard'



**Christian slaves were sometimes ransomed back to freedom... if a monk came along with enough coin**

his base. It was a voyage that would transform his life.

## A TITAN OF TUNIS

Tunis was nominally ruled by a pasha appointed by the Ottoman Sultan in Istanbul but, by the time Ward arrived in 1605, the real power lay in the hands of Uthman Dey, leader of the janissary

soldiers (janissaries being the Sultan's household troops and bodyguards) garrisoned in the city. Wily and ruthless in equal measure, Uthman Dey had created a powerful guild of corsairs, and they preyed on shipping across the Mediterranean.

Uthman Dey may well have had second thoughts about welcoming this mixed band of Cornish smugglers and West Country ruffians. Toothless, heavily bearded and wearing a bizarre array of stolen velvet doublets and silken waistcoats, Ward's pirates looked starkly different to the fabulously uniformed janissaries who patrolled the city. Nonetheless, Dey recognised that Ward was a skilled pirate and allowed him to use Tunis as his centre of operations, just so long as he got a share of the loot.

Ward began capturing an astonishing array of vessels, including an English merchantman named *John Baptist*, richly laden with luxurious damasks. Ward renamed her the *Little John*, after the English folk hero. Another captured vessel was renamed the *Gift*, suggesting that Ward, though reportedly morose, had a sense of humour.

Many other ships were seized in the early spring of that first year in Tunis. One of the largest was the 300-ton *Rubin*, heavily laden with pepper, indigo and luxury goods purchased in Alexandria and destined for Venice. Also seized were the *Elizabeth*, *Charity* and *Pearl*, along with the *Trojan* of London: her English crew "were made slaves for shooting off but one shot in their own defence".



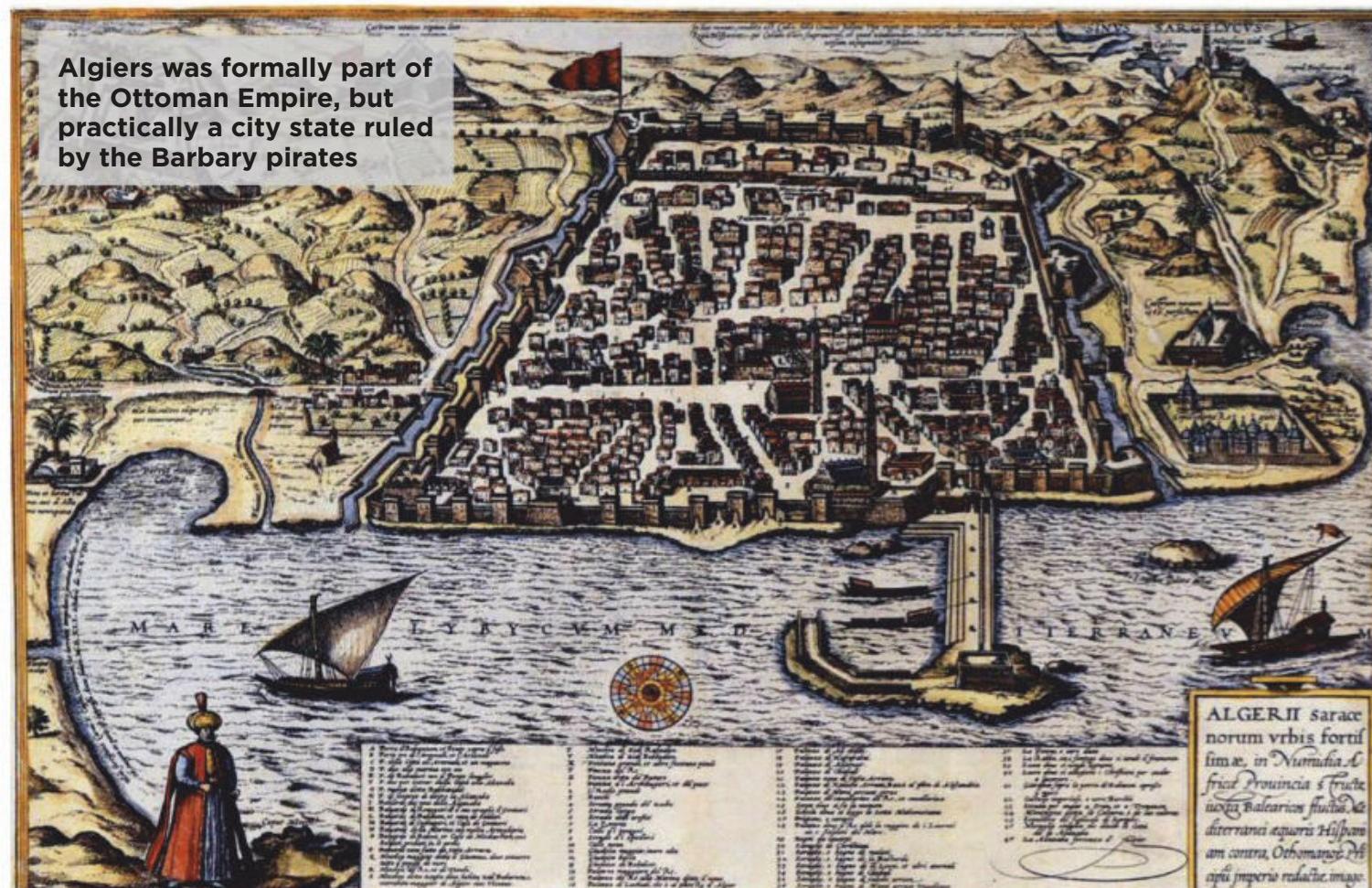
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
John Ward was the inspiration for the character of Captain Jack Sparrow in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* films. Ward's nickname was 'Sparrow' and he was known for his flamboyant style – much like the Hollywood icon.

Ward so ingratiated himself with Uthman Dey that he was given a large plot of land in Tunis. He now set to work building himself a mansion on a scale and opulence that would have been unthinkable in his native England. One compatriot who visited the place described it as "a very stately house, far more fit for a prince than a pirate". It was dripping with luxury, "a fair palace beautified with rich marble and alabaster stones".

As for Ward himself, he began to play the role of swaggering Oriental potentate, living in "a most princely and magnificent state". He also looked the part. "His apparel is both curious and costly, his diet sumptuous and his followers seriously observing and obeying his will." In common with the greatest of lords, "he hath two cooks that dress and prepare his diet for him, and his taster before he eats".

In April 1607, Ward was cruising along the Turkish coast when he spotted a vast merchant vessel on the horizon. As he set sail in pursuit, her faint outline slowly sharpened into view. Neither he nor his crew could quite believe their eyes. The *Reniera e Soderina* was "a great argosy of fourteen or fifteen hundred tons" – a veritable leviathan of a ship – and she was sailing from Aleppo with a cargo of silks, indigo and cotton. She was so heavily laden that she couldn't manoeuvre in the light wind, making her a sitting duck for Ward's more nimble vessels.

Ward shouted his battle-cry and the guns opened fire, blasting cannonballs





Battles between the Barbary pirates and the European sea powers became more common as the 17th century wore on

## "WARD BEGAN TO PLAY THE ROLE OF SWAGGERING ORIENTAL POTENTATE"

directly into the hull. They pierced the ship's timbers fully five times, setting light to bails of hay inside. The *Reniera e Soderina* fired back, but was unable to score a single hit.

After three hours of intense bombardment, Ward's men prepared to board. As they did so, the *Reniera e Soderina*'s captain offered his crew the choice of fighting or surrendering. When they vowed to fight, he handed out small arms and deployed the bulk of his men on the quarterdeck.

Moments before Ward's men grappled the ship, his gunners fired six rounds of lethal chain shot. It tore into the rigging and sails, but it also tore into the crew. Two men were shredded to morsels, causing those around them to drop their weapons in panic.

At this very moment, Ward himself leaped aboard. "In the deadly conflict he did so undauntedly bear himself," one of his men said later, "as if he had courage to out-brave death." The battle was long and fierce, but Ward was set on victory. "In the end, our captain had the sunshine: he boarded her, subdued her, chained her men like slaves." Soon after, he sailed her back to Tunis in triumph.

The capture of the *Reniera e Soderina* was the zenith of Ward's piratical career. He would never quite match

this success. After refitting the ship in Tunis, he hired a crew and accompanied her on her first voyage as a pirate ship. But that maiden voyage was also to be her last. Ward's structural alterations to the cannon deck had so weakened the vessel that she broke up in a storm and sunk with the loss of 350 men. Ward himself slipped back to Tunis on one of the smaller vessels in his fleet.

### TURNING TURK

News of the disaster irreparably damaged Ward's reputation and he became an object of hatred for many in Tunis, especially those who had lost loved ones in the disaster. Ward found himself in desperate straits and became increasingly reliant on the protection of Uthman Dey.

Around 1610, he and his crew took the momentous decision to 'turn Turk', converting to Islam and settling permanently in Tunis. Ward himself changed his name to Yusuf Reis and married for a second time, even though he still had a wife in England. One who saw him in his later

## BARBARY CORSAIRS

The Barbary corsairs were pirates and privateers operating out of the three principal ports in North Africa (Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli, all in the Mediterranean) and the port of Salé, on the Atlantic coast of Morocco.

In the 16th century, they were mainly Muslim privateers who operated with the sanction of the Ottoman-appointed rulers of the Barbary states (such as *Oruç Reis* and *Hayreddin Barbarossa*, above). They found easy prey in the richly laden and usually Christian ships plying the Mediterranean.

These early corsairs were later joined by large numbers of Dutch pirates and English privateers: the latter flocked here when forbidden from attacking Spanish shipping after the peace of 1604.

The Barbary corsairs reached their peak in the early 1600s. They were superb navigators and sailed enormous distances in their quest for plunder. Many of their estimated one million (at least) victims were sold in the great slave auctions of North Africa. Few ever returned home to their loved ones.



James I's reign was dogged by the problem of piracy

years described him as a shadow of his former self. "Very short with little hair, and that quite white, bald in front." He spoke little, and when he did it was mostly swearing. "Drunk from morn till night ... a fool and an idiot out of his trade."

Ward's legend blossomed even within his own lifetime, and he became the subject of plays, pamphlets, ballads and books that in turn demonised and romanticised his exploits as a corsair. One of the best known is *Captain Ward and the Rainbow*, in which the King sends a ship called the *Royal Rainbow* after the perfidious pirate. Ward prevails, naturally, the rhyme ending with the lines:

"Go tell the king of England, go tell him this from me,  
If he reign king of all the land, I will reign king at sea."

These words provide a fitting epitaph for the man who, up to this point, might have been England's most notorious pirate. For much of his long and troubled lifetime, Captain John Ward was indeed king of the sea. ☀

### GET HOOKED

#### LISTEN

BBC WORLD SERVICE Explore the Barbary pirates and the white slave trade in an episode of *Witness History* on the BBC World Service  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p033v6y2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p033v6y2)

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# Writing

in times of conflict

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over the last 100 years



# The British Schindler

Nicholas Winton always claimed he “wasn’t heroic”, yet it was down to his business sense and compassion that 669 children were swept out of Prague to safety before the Nazis arrived, writes **Gavin Mortimer**

Nicholas Winton carries one of the many children he helped to save, placing them with foster families when they arrived in Britain



**Many Czechoslovakians fled from the Sudetenland in the wake of the Nazi occupation, leaving their homes for a life of poverty and uncertainty**

**O**ne of the most popular television programmes of the 1980s was BBC magazine show *That's Life*. It regularly pulled in more than 20 million viewers each week, but few episodes were as powerful as the one broadcast on 27 February 1988.

Near the end of the show, host Esther Rantzen produced a scrapbook that listed the names of hundreds of mostly Jewish children brought to Britain from Czechoslovakia in 1939, from under the noses of the Nazis. One of the names was Vera Diamant, a ten-year-old whose parents had arranged for her and an older sister to start a new life in Britain. Vera was in the studio audience, and as the camera picked her out, viewers saw an old man next to her. Neither he nor Vera knew they had been 'set up' by *That's Life*. Amid gasps from the audience, Rantzen announced that the old man was called Nicholas Winton, and that 49 years earlier he had been instrumental in saving the life of Vera and hundreds of other children. The two embraced and as Winton wiped a tear from his eye, Vera leaned in and whispered "thank you".

On the face of it, Winton was an unlikely saviour of Czech children. Born into privilege in north London in 1909 and privately educated, by the late 1930s he had become a successful stockbroker. But though he was on the surface the quintessential English gentleman, Winton's lineage was foreign. The family name was Wertheim, German Jewish, and although Nicholas was raised a Christian it wasn't until 1938 that he and the



**Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain lands in England following the Munich Agreement, which he later describes as delivering "Peace for our time"**



rest of the family changed themselves to Winton to underline where their loyalties lay.

A fervent anti-fascist, Winton joined the Labour Party. At the end of December 1938, he accepted an invitation from a fellow activist to travel to Prague to see the plight of Czech Jews firsthand. Arriving in Prague on New Year's Eve, Winton was introduced to Doreen Warriner. A 34-year-old English academic, she had been in Prague since 13 October, motivated by a sense of shame at the manner in which many felt the British government had betrayed the Czechs. "I had no idea at all what to do, only a desperate wish to do something," she recalled of her decision to abandon her Rockefeller fellowship in the US to travel to Prague.

A fortnight before Warriner's arrival, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain had signed the Munich Agreement, which allowed Hitler to annex the Sudetenland – the region of western Czechoslovakia bordering Germany. It precipitated an exodus of more than 100,000 refugees from the

Sudetenland into the rest of Czechoslovakia which, for the time being, remained free from Nazi occupation.

## UNAPPEASED

Warriner wasn't the only Briton disgusted by the Munich Agreement. Many charities and organisations sprang up to assist those Czechs wanting to flee the Nazis. It was to the most prominent of these, the British Committee for Refugees from Czechoslovakia (BCRC), that Warriner offered her services when she arrived in Prague. Her focus was on assisting political refugees to find a way to leave Czechoslovakia for Britain, and Winton quickly saw how he could be of assistance. "Miss Warriner has already asked me to be secretary of a Children's Committee for Czechoslovakia, which I suggested should be formed," wrote Winton to his mother in early January 1939. "It will mean a lot of work."

Some of that work he delegated to his mother, such as enquiring of the Home Office in London what guarantees were needed to bring a child into Britain. In the meantime, Winton began to break down some of the layers of bureaucracy that were hindering the work of the BCRC in Prague. It was a complex challenge but Winton's motto was "if something is not impossible, then there must be a way to do it".

Winton's determination to help the children was strengthened by an

**"On the face of it, he was an unlikely saviour of children"**



**Four young refugees smile and wave after arriving at Southampton in March 1939.**



incident he witnessed in Prague on 11 January 1939, when he encountered a crowd of belligerent Czech youths marching down the street and shouting animatedly. "I found myself standing next to another inoffensive looking man and I asked him what it had all been about," he explained in a letter to his mother. "He told me it was an anti-Jewish procession and the shouting was anti-Jewish slogans."

This wasn't the only sinister incident that Winton experienced. He had the feeling he was being followed, a hunch

confirmed by Warriner, who said she and the rest of the BCRC in Prague were under surveillance by German agents.

On 14 January, Winton escorted a British MP, Eleanor Rathbone, to one of the growing number of camps in Czechoslovakia that now housed an estimated 250,000 refugees. It was a chastening experience for the pair; the sight of so many children living in appalling conditions proved particularly upsetting. That night, Winton wrote to his mother to tell her that "as far as I can see my work re: children is only just

**ABOVE: The train journey from Prague was long, cramped and tedious – though a small price to pay for safety**

**RIGHT: MP Eleanor Rathbone was an outspoken critic of Britain's ongoing policy of appeasement in the run up to World War II**

starting". However, he continued, he believed he would be more effective if he was based in London, and it would be wonderful if she could lend a hand. "If I can possibly avoid it I don't want to work anywhere near any of the existing committees," he told her. "From experience this end they can only retard the work. I therefore need someone practically the whole time I am at work."

A significant factor in Winton's decision to return to London was a £4 million fund set up by the British government to assist Sudeten refugees. With Warriner in Prague, the plight of the children would be best served if Winton was in Britain to organise their dispersal when they arrived. "He is ideal for the job," Warriner wrote to the BCRC in London. "He has enormous energy, businessmen methods, knows the situation perfectly."



**LEFT: The Kindertransport was not limited to Czechoslovakia. The children given these documents were brought from Vienna, while others were rescued from Poland and the Free City of Danzig**

# Three more heroes of the Holocaust

These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to help the persecuted

## MARION PRITCHARD

Dutch-American Marion Pritchard was a student social worker in Amsterdam in 1942. Pritchard was outraged at the Nazis' persecution of Jews and began registering Jewish children as her own and placing them in safe houses. She organised food and medical care, and even shot dead a local Nazi collaborator who had broken into her house looking for Jews. "By 1945, I had lied, stolen, cheated, deceived and even killed," recalled Pritchard, but in doing so she had saved the lives of more than 150 Jews. She was later honoured as 'Righteous Among the Nations', an honorific granted to non-Jews who risked their lives to protect Jews during the Holocaust.

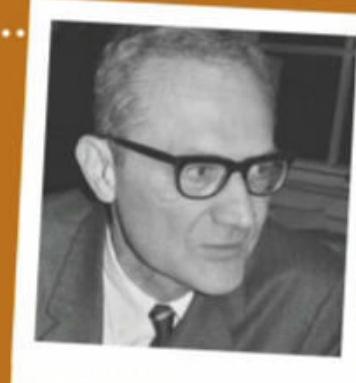
## JANE HAINING

When war broke out, Jane Haining was working for the Scottish Mission School in Budapest as the matron of a girls' boarding house. Called home by the Mission, Haining refused to leave, writing: "If these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in days of darkness?" For the next five years, Haining sheltered scores of Jewish refugees who arrived from Nazi Europe. Haining was arrested when the Nazis invaded Hungary in 1944 and was sent to Auschwitz. She didn't return. She, too, was recognised as Righteous Among the Nations.



## VARIAN FRY

The first American to be honoured as Righteous Among the Nations, Fry was a journalist who, in 1940, helped found the Emergency Rescue Committee, which operated in France. He arrived in Marseille in August 1940 and remained for 13 months, organising the escapes of more than 2,000 dissidents and refugees, many of them Jewish. Deported to the US by Vichy France, Fry was one of the first reporters to draw American attention to the Holocaust in a 1942 article titled 'The Massacre of the Jews in Europe' in *The New Republic* magazine.



Winton spent much of February organising with the Home Office the requirements to bring each child from Prague to Britain. These were: a £50 guarantee (equivalent to approximately £3,200 in 2019), a medical certificate and the name of a foster parent.

## FULL STEAM AHEAD

The first train carrying children – one of the so-called 'Kindertransport' – left Prague on 14 March with 20 boys and girls on board; the next day Germany

invaded Czechoslovakia, and the need to evacuate more children took on a greater urgency. Fortunately, Winton's role in Prague had been taken over by Trevor Chadwick, a teacher from Swanage in Dorset, who had first come to the Czech capital in early March to collect three children for his school. Chadwick and Warriner now had to deal not with shadowy German agents but strutting Gestapo officers.

"They gave me an unpleasant time at first," Chadwick recalled.

"I remember putting on the screaming table-thumping acts – always reliable with these louts – and demanding an interview with the Kriminalrat." The Kriminalrat, or section chief, was Karl Bömelburg, a thug who could be easily charmed by the shrewd Chadwick, and he authorised the departure of eight trains in total containing 669 children.

In one of them was Vera Diamant and her sister, Eva, whose parents had approached Chadwick for help not long after Germans troops had occupied their hometown of Čelákovice. The pair were among 123 children who left on the fifth train to Britain, on 2 June 1939. "The last time I saw my parents was getting on the train in Prague to go to England," recalled Diamant. "We were sitting in the train and I saw for the first time the anguish in my parents' faces which they were hiding until that very last moment."

Winton greeted Vera and the other children upon the train's arrival in London, and among the foster parents and other well-wishers was a reporter from *New Statesman* magazine. "I have seldom seen a more moving sight," wrote the journalist. "Policemen kept a gangway for the crocodile which was led off to a gymnasium... and curtained down the middle. The children sat on benches on one side of the curtain, the parents were on the other. As each name was called out, the child went through an opening



**Doreen Warriner's nephew (left) shakes hands with the British ambassador to the Czech Republic at the unveiling of a plaque dedicated to his aunt in Prague**



Nicholas Winton with Vera Gissing (née Diamant), the former Czech refugee with whom he shared an emotional reunion on *That's Life*

in the curtain and was welcomed by its new parents on the other side."

The train carrying the Diamant sisters was the last one Chadwick waved off from Prague. The Czech capital was no longer safe for British charity workers, and in June he returned to the UK as Warriner had done a few weeks earlier. In July the BCRC was replaced by the Czech Refugee Trust Fund and a government official called Walter Creighton took on Chadwick's role, his official status affording more protection.

Three more trains left Prague that summer, including one on 1 July that transported 241 children to London, the largest number yet. The ninth was scheduled to depart on 1 September with 250 boys and girls, but it never left Prague. That morning, Germany invaded Poland, setting Europe, and the world, on the path to war.

### SILENT HEROISM

Winton, Chadwick and Warriner saved the lives of hundreds of children, but for decades their deeds went unrecognised. When Chadwick and Warriner died in the 1970s, barely a mention was made of their passing. There was a brief notice in *The Times* when Warriner died in December 1972, with a colleague in the BCRC in Prague describing how: "Doreen was the best possible company in bad times, and it was a rewarding experience

to work with someone of such competence and compassion."

It was the powerful reunion with Vera Diamant on *That's Life* that turned the global spotlight on Winton and the work of the BCRC nearly half a century earlier. The scrapbook that was such a mine of information to Esther Rantzen had been presented to Winton by a BCRC volunteer in 1939, as a memento of their enterprise. In the early 1980s it came to the attention of Elizabeth Maxwell, a Holocaust researcher and the wife of the newspaper tycoon, Robert, himself a Czech Jew who had fled the Nazis.

Winton, who was knighted in 2003, was always uncomfortable with the fact that the media lauded him as the sole hero of this endeavour. In interviews he consistently highlighted the role of Chadwick and Warriner, explaining in 2014 (the year before he died aged 106) that "I wasn't heroic because I was never in danger".



A statue to Winton stands in Prague's main railway station

## Winton's children

Many of those Winton helped to save have gone on to fame and fortune

### GERDA MAYER

The 11-year-old was the personal responsibility of Trevor Chadwick, whose mother, Muriel, provided the £50 guarantee so she could settle in Britain with the family. Gerda, who lost her parents in the war, was schooled in England and began writing poetry in the 1950s. She has since had many anthologies published and the dedication in her 1988 collection *A Heartache of Grass* is "to the memory of Muriel Chadwick and her son Trevor to whom I owe my preservation".

### ALF DUBS

The Labour life peer, who arrived from Prague in 1939 aged six, was elected MP for Battersea South in 1979 and served his constituency for eight years. A former director of the Refugee Council, Alf said: "Winton was truly a special human being...he saw the impending tragedy and was determined to save Jewish children from the Nazis."



### KAREL REISZ

Considered one of the most influential Czech filmmakers ever, a 12-year-old Karel and his brother were put on a train to London from Prague by their parents, both of whom died at Auschwitz. Karel rejected his mother's suggestion to Anglicise his name to Charles and his individuality was evident in his film-making, the most famous of which was the 1981 hit *The French Lieutenant's Woman* starring Meryl Streep.



He was in danger for a while, but more importantly, Winton had been prepared to act boldly while the majority of the West was indifferent to the plight of Europe's Jews. "He is the father of the biggest family in the world," said Vera.

"The 669 children Nicky Winton saved have had children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. That means there are well over 5,000 of us alive today thanks to him and Trevor Chadwick, and the British people who opened their hearts and homes to us." ☺

### GET HOOKED



### LISTEN

In 2014, Nicholas Winton appeared on an episode of HARDtalk on the BBC World Service  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02btlfw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02btlfw)

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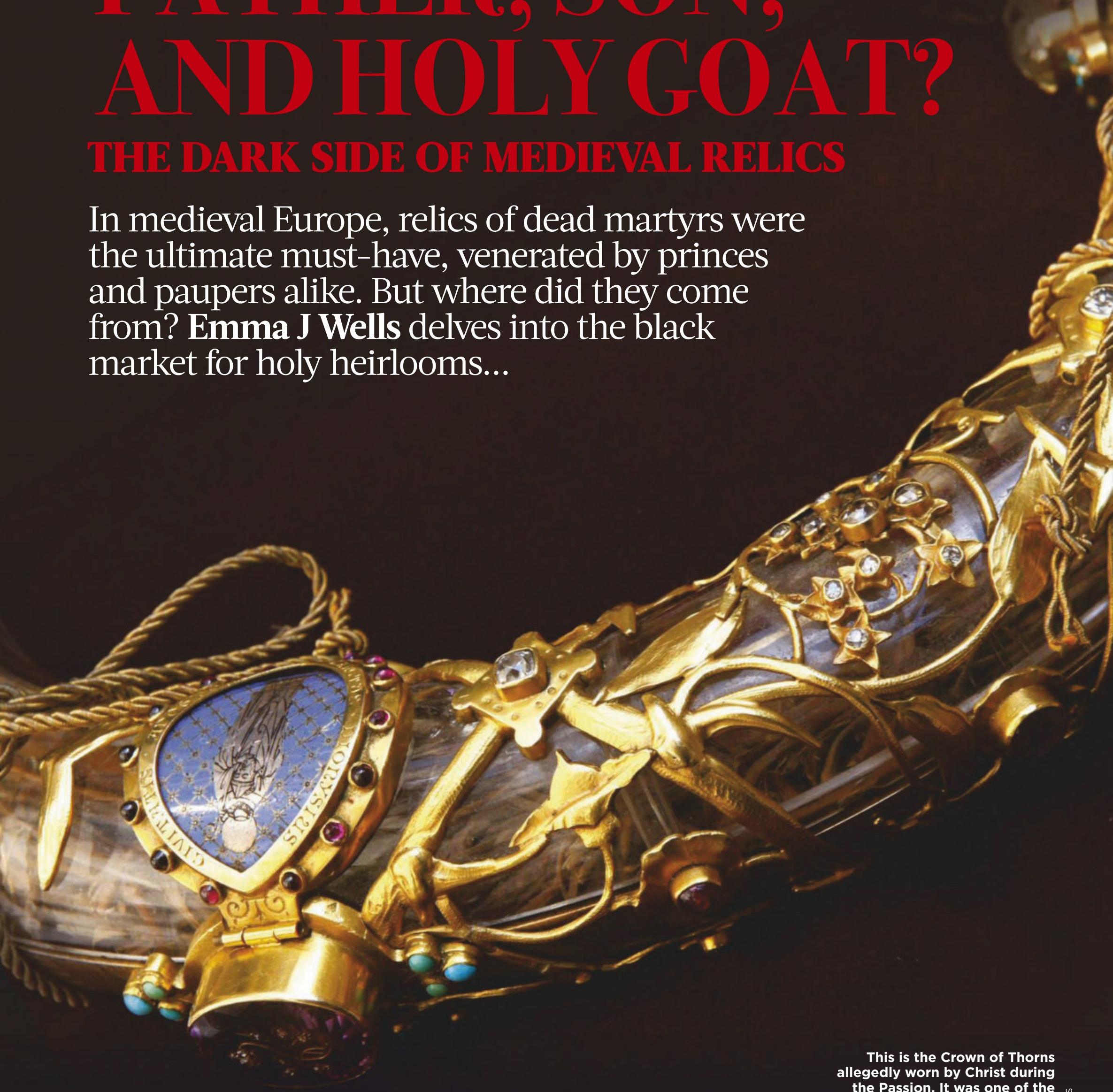
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# FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GOAT?

## THE DARK SIDE OF MEDIEVAL RELICS

In medieval Europe, relics of dead martyrs were the ultimate must-have, venerated by princes and paupers alike. But where did they come from? **Emma J Wells** delves into the black market for holy heirlooms...



This is the Crown of Thorns allegedly worn by Christ during the Passion. It was one of the prized possessions in Notre-Dame Cathedral until April 2019 – when it was rescued from the inferno that gutted the building

GETTY IMAGES

In AD 869, the Great Heathen Army – the horde of Viking warriors that wreaked havoc across the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of England – returned to East Anglia once more. Edmund, King of the East Angles, rode to meet them. They clashed at Thetford, where Edmund was captured and, legend has it, given the chance to continue ruling as a Viking underking. Edmund refused, and so was tied to a tree, beaten and then murdered with a volley of arrows. His head was subsequently hacked off and tossed into a bramble brush.

Edmund was soon venerated as a saint, and his remains relocated to the nearby town of Beodricesworth (Bury St Edmunds). Such was his following that he was quickly recognised as the patron saint of England, a position held until he was replaced by St George on Edward III's orders in the 14th century. But despite his veneration, his body was not to stay undisturbed.

Edmund's shrine in the abbey of Bury St Edmunds was destroyed in 1539, during the English Reformation, and his remains were presumed lost. Another legend, however, claims that the saint's body was actually looted and taken to France in 1217, during the First Barons' War. In either case, his remains next crop up in Toulouse, where a cult to Edmund arose after his apparent intercessions saved the town from a plague in the 17th century. Again, he was to be disturbed: in 1901, the Archbishop of

Westminster asked that Edmund's remains be returned, so that they might grace the high altar of the still-under-construction Westminster Cathedral.

Officials in Toulouse refused. The matter was referred to the highest authority – the Pope – who sided with the Archbishop. Edmund's body alone was returned; his decapitated head remained in France. Yet following doubt over the authenticity of the relics sent back, his remains were left in the care of the Duke of Norfolk, and so still remain in the private chapel at Arundel Castle.

### PEOPLE PLEASERS

The medieval market for relics was big business – a huge industry with an infrastructure to match. From peasants to popes, all clamoured to see them – so much so that Charlemagne, the first Holy Roman Emperor, ordered relic veneration to be an integral part of Frankish canon law, directing every altar to possess its own relics.

Deriving from the Latin 'relicuum', meaning 'remainder', the real value of these divine articles lay in their power to bridge heaven and earth. The bones or hair of martyrs, apostles and Christ were considered to have the greatest power, and were known as first-class relics. Of the latter, the most iconic was the cross of Christ's crucifixion. Second-class relics included garments or personal property, while third-class

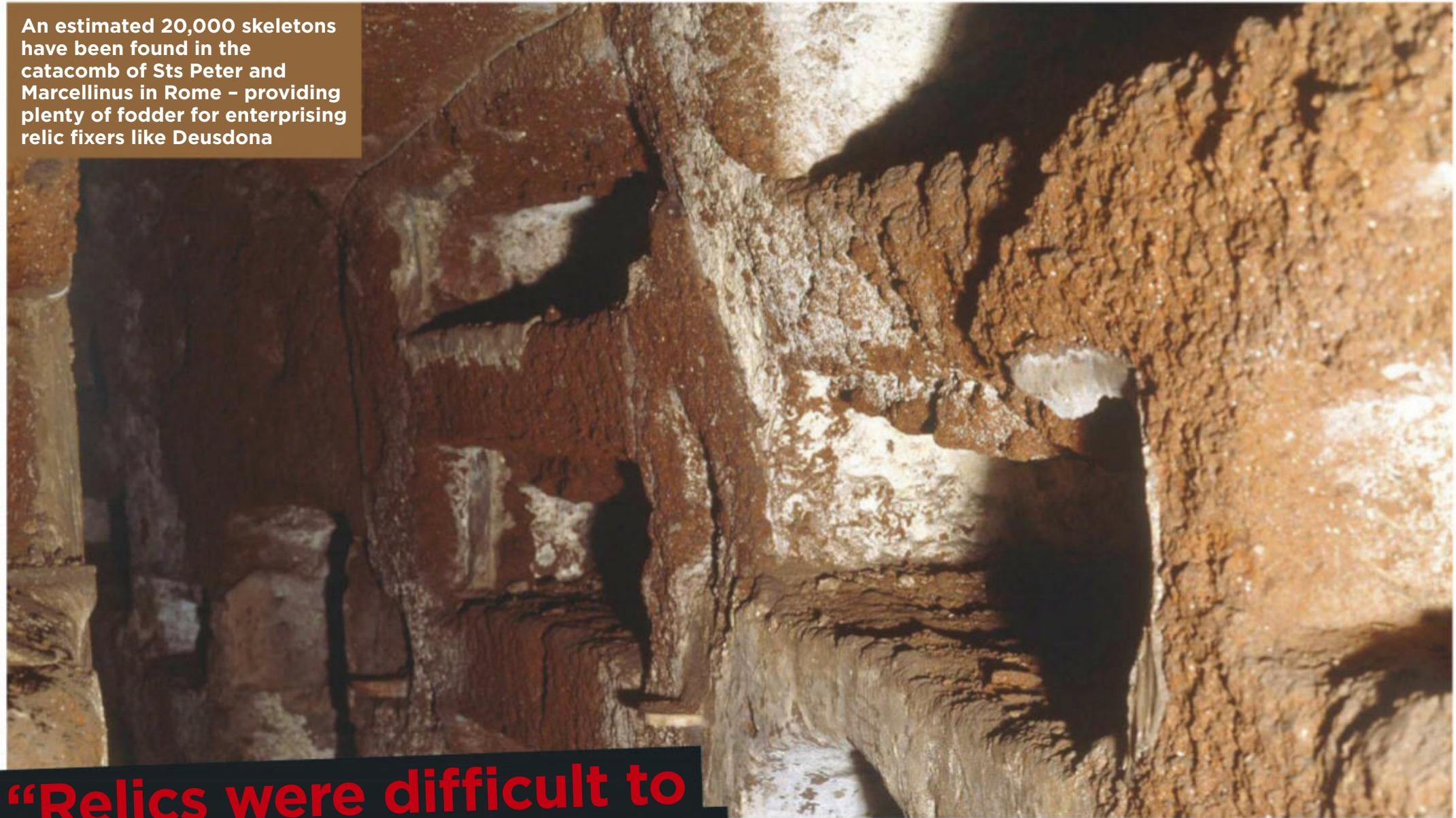
relics were objects that had been touched or located in the vicinity of a first- or second-class relic. Year upon year, faithful pilgrims travelled hundreds of miles, flocking to parish churches and cathedrals in droves to visit the most powerful relics, in the hope of healing power or a miracle. Even those relics considered fake could become 'real' if they later 'performed'.

The pilgrimage trade had an enormous impact on local economies, leading towns to go to extreme lengths in pursuit of the best relics, with the most desirable – the ones that would subsequently attract the most visitors – being the most difficult to come by. Acquiring prime relics required much time and money, so competition between sacred sites drove many churches to extreme, even inexplicable, lengths. Fragments of saints were trafficked around Europe, but far too often supply simply fell behind demand, resulting in an underground economy of trades, surreptitious purchases and even theft. Although high-ranking churchmen could technically place orders, churches often could not afford to pay the astronomical prices of the most prized choices. And so, they turned to a group of relic fixers.

Perhaps the most famous of these professional 'merchants' was a 9th-century Roman deacon named Deusdona, who lived near the basilica of St Peter in Chains. Aided by his brothers, Lunisus and Theodorus, he gained an unenviable notoriety for selling at least five saints to the



An estimated 20,000 skeletons have been found in the catacomb of Sts Peter and Marcellinus in Rome – providing plenty of fodder for enterprising relic fixers like Deusdona



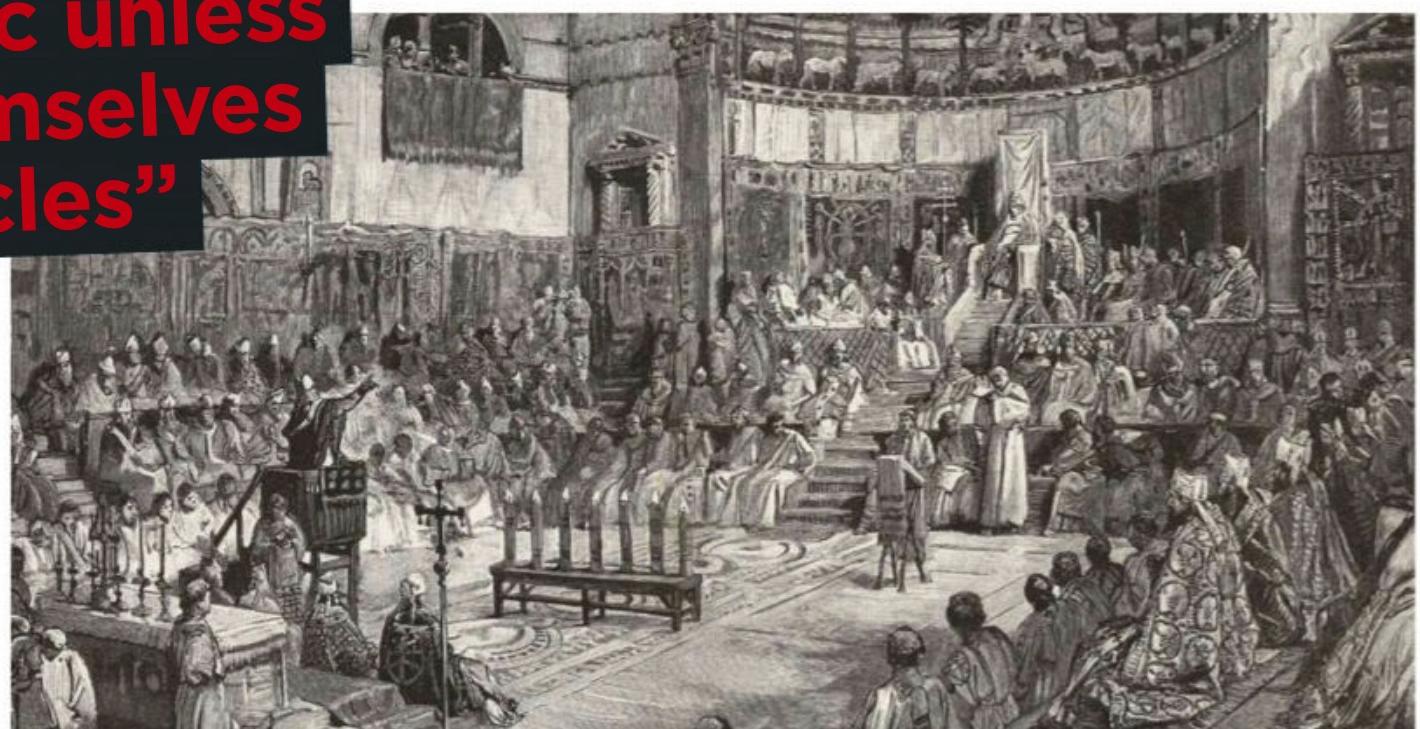
**“Relics were difficult to verify as authentic unless they proved themselves through miracles”**

Benedictine monastery at Fulda. But his most prominent acquisition was of saints Marcellinus and Peter (martyred during the early Roman Empire) for Einhard, a servant to both Charlemagne and his son, Louis the Pious, to endow a newly founded monastery at Mulinheim. Unknown to their customers, however, the brothers would typically acquire bones from one of Rome's many abandoned catacombs and sell them on as holy relics.

They were not alone in the relic trade. In AD 828, two Venetian merchants questioned the appropriateness of the body of St Mark remaining in the then Muslim-occupied city of Alexandria. After stealing it, they cloaked the body in joints of pork to deter Muslims from searching their ship. Other notorious merchants included Deusdona's direct competitor, Felix, who was often recorded as selling the same relics and saints as his rival. Both men openly admitted to stealing said relics but were protected by their clerical customers, who aided their escape from the pursuing monastic communities from which the relics had been purloined.

### DOUBLE DEALING

Robbery was not the only practice through which relics might abound. Relics were easily transported, largely untraceable and difficult to verify as authentic unless they proved



The Fourth Lateran Council also defined transubstantiation – the method by which bread and wine becomes the body and blood of Christ during Holy Communion

themselves through miracles. Canny merchants could sell the same relic twice over – or more – if they were talented or duplicitous enough. The traffic in bones of saints and other so-called holy antiques became so prevalent that churches overflowed with bogus relics. Although the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 ordained that relics should not be sold or put on exhibition in order to prevent prelates from deceiving pilgrims through false tales and documents “as has commonly happened in many places on account of the desire for profit”, the problem persisted.

The biggest clue that a relic was fake came when several sites laid claim to the same one. Countless pieces of wood were purported to

be shards of the True Cross, and no fewer than 29 places claimed to house the associated nails. Although it is commonly believed that there were three nails, the earliest crucifixes show Christ's feet separated, so perhaps there were four. Apocrypha claims St Helena had a further 12 made from the original four nails, which may go some way to explain why many still on display today are not complete.

There is a caveat: when human remains were accidentally discovered near a church or catacombs, they were often promoted as the body of a martyr. The same applied to objects and hence, in some cases, there was little evidence of deliberate fraud or manipulation. This may explain the instances

# ICON OR CON

These are among the most famous medieval relics in the world, but are they real?



## THE TURIN SHROUD

► Is this the true burial shroud of Christ or 650-year-old fake news? Regardless, the 14-foot linen cloth bearing an image of a crucified man first surfaced in 1354 – apparently depicting Christ himself. Radiocarbon dating places the cloth in the medieval period, but scientific tests suggest the pattern of the bloodstains may indicate a forgery. The Vatican itself refuses to take an official position on the shroud's authenticity.



## ST CATHERINE'S HEAD

► Preserved in the Basilica Cateriniana San Domenico, Siena, the mummified head of St Catherine of Siena is housed behind a locked, gilded grate. One of Italy's two patron saints, St Catherine, known for her incredible religious visions, died in Rome in 1380 at the age of 33, shortly after suffering a major stroke.

When the people of Siena requested her body for burial, the request was denied. A group of her followers decided to undertake the clandestine task of arranging for her head to be removed and returned to Siena. When the body snatchers were apprehended, it is said that guards found only rose petals inside their bag. It was only when the head was delivered back to Siena that the rose petals magically morphed back into Catherine's head.



## THE HOLY FORESKIN

► Jesus's circumcision is said to have taken place eight days after his birth, which raises the question of what became of his foreskin? As perhaps the most valuable and holy relic, since it was an actual part of Christ's body, several figures and churches claimed its possession. Its first mention came when Charlemagne presented it as a gift to Pope Leo III (the emperor allegedly received it from a Byzantine empress). Soon, rival claimants began to spring-up across Europe. All told, at least 31 churches in Europe asserted to house the Holy Foreskin sometime during the Middle Ages. The most notorious was kept in the town of Calcata, near Rome, until it disappeared in 1983.

## ST ROSALIA'S BONES

▼ In the Sicilian region of Italy, a teenage girl left home to become a hermit and devote her life to Christ. She passed away in c1160, in the cave she had chosen as her home on Mount Pellegrino, and there her bones had remained. That was until a plague struck Palermo in 1624.

Residents began claiming to see visions of Rosalia, and for the plague to be ended, the apparition apparently instructed that her bones were to be recovered. This was indeed accomplished and the bones were then paraded through the streets. The plague ebbed, and for this Rosalia was venerated as the patron saint of Palermo and her former abode thus turned into a site of devotion.

Two centuries later, British geologist William Buckland visited Rosalia's shrine. He examined the relics but found something amiss: he determined them to be "non-human" – in fact, they belonged to a goat.



## ST ANTHONY'S TONGUE

▲ St Anthony of Padua perished from oedema in 1231, and when exhumed in 1263 in order to be reburied in a grand new basilica, his body was found to have decomposed, except, curiously, for his tongue. After death, the tongue is one of the parts of the body that should decay first. That precisely this part of the saint's body should be one of the best preserved was taken as a miraculous sign of his speaking and teaching about the word of God.

In 1981, St Anthony's body was exhumed again and scientists discovered that the cartilaginous tissue supporting the vocal cords, along with other organic material connected with his vocal apparatus, was still remarkably preserved.

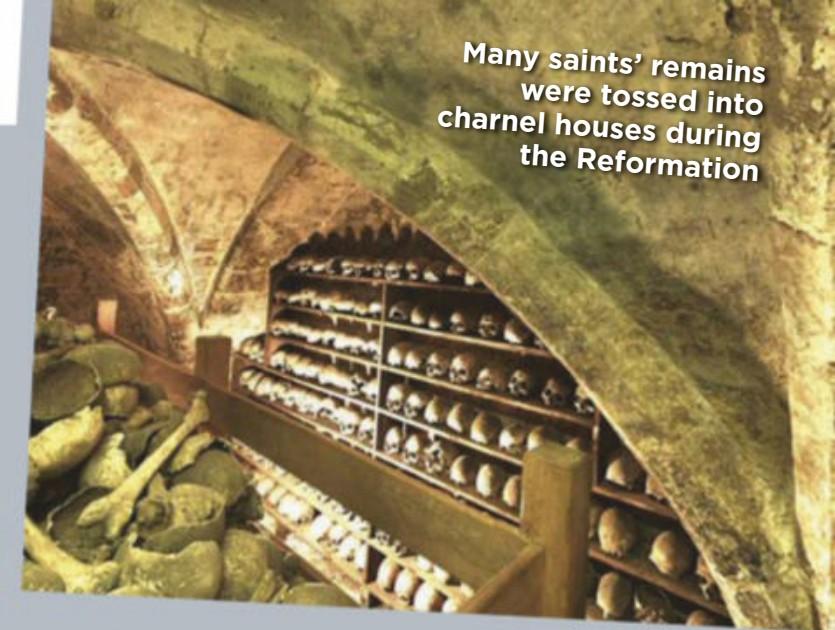


## THE HAND OF MARGARET CLITHEROW

► Alleged to have illegally hidden Jesuit priests in her home in York's Shambles, Margaret Clitherow was put to death on 25 March 1586 by 'peine forte et dure' at the Toll Booth on Ouse Bridge. There she was laid, a door placed over her and stone weights piled on top. Margaret's body was buried at midnight in an obscure corner of the city so that no one would find it. Six weeks later, a group of Catholics eventually located the site and, after embalming the body, they reburied her. The location of the burial place was so closely guarded that it is now lost, but Margaret may have been interred in the crypt of the small chapel of St Saviour, Stydd in Lancashire. One of her hands – detached before her final burial – is now one of the most precious treasures of the Bar Convent in York.

# The ruin of relic culture

Beginning in the 1520s, Europe saw perhaps the biggest change to fundamental religious belief – a movement marked at its heart by an attack on devotion to the saints. In England, the mid 1530s saw Henry VIII attack pilgrimage, relics, reliquaries, shrines, and the veneration of images (by and large). To believe that they had any kind of implanted sacredness was equivalent to heathen idolatry. In turn, the shrines, tombs and reliquaries of saints were smashed open and the remains thrown into charnel houses, with the more valuable materials melted down or transformed into ‘secular’ artefacts; statues were decimated or burned; wall and rood paintings were defaced or covered with whitewash then overwritten with the only sanctioned ‘relic’: the Word of



Many saints' remains were tossed into charnel houses during the Reformation

where the venerated crucifixion nails that found themselves in the presence of originals came to be honoured as the original itself. The custom of making facsimiles – which continues to this day in the form of replicas or souvenirs, such as St John the Baptist's head at Amiens Cathedral or the replica of the Turin Shroud owned by the Ukrainian Archeeparchy of Philadelphia – may account for the many counterfeit relics that swarmed many great medieval churches.

As the monks of Glastonbury Abbey struggled to acquire funds to rebuild their church in the late 12th century (and to compete with Westminster Abbey), they just happened to stumble upon the skeletons of King Arthur and Guinevere in a tree trunk. They relocated the grave into the grounds of the Abbey's new church, and the site subsequently thrived. As a consequence, nearby Wells Cathedral was deserted by the throngs of pilgrims who now flocked to the new prized relics on display at Glastonbury.

## WARRING CLAIMS

This is not to say that quarrelling parties who laid claim to the same ‘authentic’ relic could not be held accountable or seek help in their justification, whichever the case may be. By scouring records and thus establishing the alleged true history and indisputable verification of the relic including all associated cures and miracles, warring claims could be put to rest by the offices of the Holy See – the government of the Catholic Church. Peddlers of suspicious relics could be subjected to submersion of the offending relic in boiling water in order to test veracity – an authentic relic would protect its bearer from harm. A rather more elementary example comes from Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) who, when asked which of three churches possessed the real foreskin of Christ, asserted, “Rather than

**“The veil of the Virgin Mary actually being an old pillow case”**

attempt rash answers to such questions, it is better that they be left entirely to God.”

Nevertheless, papal records held multiple accounts of the same saints, so the risk for many merchants and touts was so minimal and rewards so high that it was often too tempting to turn most requests away. It thus becomes easy to understand the multiplicity and extravagance of the entries in the relic inventories across Europe.

The calamitous fraud or greed in the relic trade that ensued throughout the Middle Ages derived from the acute rivalry between religious institutions, and the desire to be known as the keepers of an extraordinarily miraculous relic. Even the Pardoner in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* was a peddler of phoney relics – the veil of the Virgin Mary actually being an old pillow case and his bag of old pig bones

God. The priests at the shrines were branded liars committing fraud and robbery. And now the replication of relics was proof of their absurdity. In 1543, Genevan reformer John Calvin even declared that they merely amounted to “heaps of foolish trifles”.

Many extravagant and unusual relics and reliquaries found their way into private collections as the centuries drew on, though the trade in unsanctioned relics vastly waned come the early 19th century, once the Enlightenment had passed. Still, the Catholic Church continued the requirement for all altars to house relics until as late as 1969.

passed off as ancient saints – through which he fleeced the gullible. But it was only a century or two later that the cult of the saints and its associated economy and materialism suffered a major public relations scandal at the hands of German theologian, Martin Luther, who orated: “What lies there are about relics! ... how does it happen that eighteen apostles are buried in Germany when Christ had only twelve?”. Elsewhere, Protestant reformer John Calvin claimed that if brought together under one roof “it would be made manifest that every Apostle has more than four bodies, and every Saint two or three”. ◎

## GET HOOKED

### LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4 Neil MacGregor examines a Holy Thorn reliquary on an episode of *A History of the World in 100 Objects*. [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00swmrh](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00swmrh)



Many of the most prized relics claim heritage from the crucifixion. This talisman (left) is said to hold a fragment of the True Cross, while this nail (shown with its opulent reliquary, right) is venerated as one of those used on Christ



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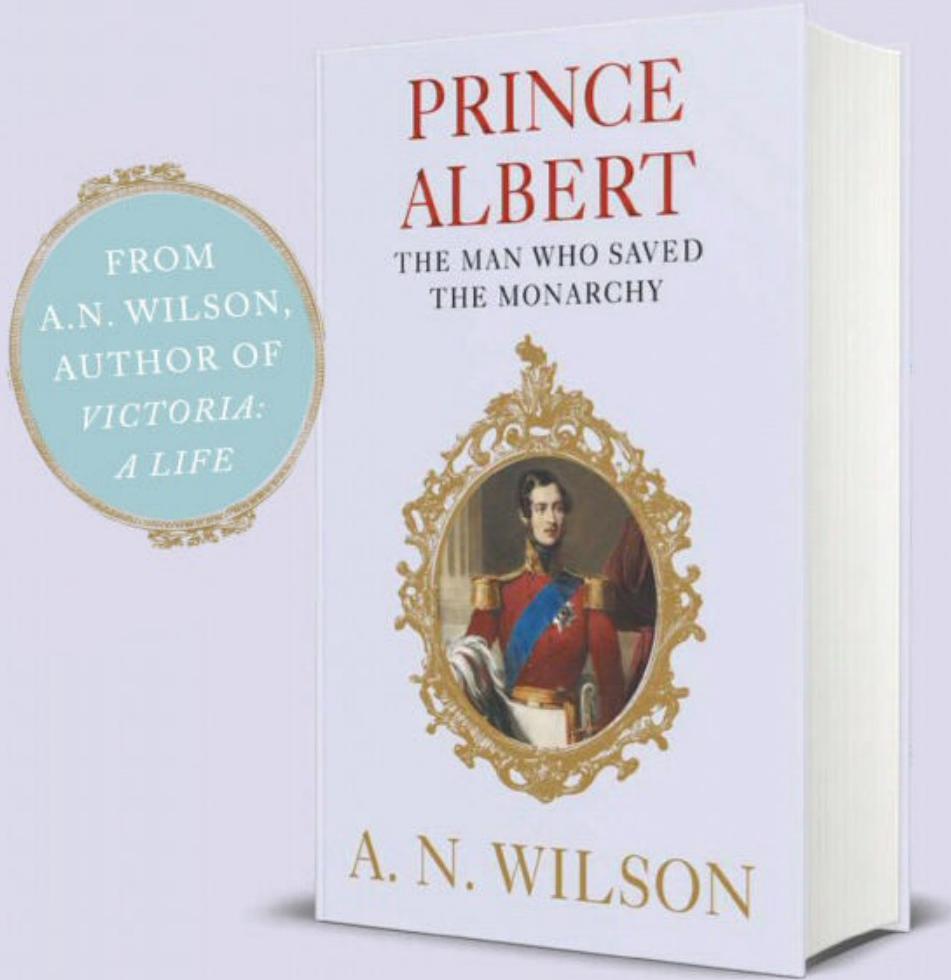


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# CLASH OF THE SAMURAI

Hareth Al Bustani introduces us to Japan's answer to the Wars of the Roses, a samurai civil war that upended centuries of imperial rule and ushered in a military dictatorship – the very first shōgunate



The Genpei War – as this clash of clans would become known – cemented the dominance of the samurai in Japanese society for generations to come

Impaled by an arrow, samurai general Minamoto Yorimasa knelt and wrote a farewell poem on his fan: "Like a fossil tree from which we gather no flowers, sad has been my life, no fruit to produce." Accompanied by the symphony of ringing steel and bloodcurdling screams from the battle close by, the 74-year-old calmly pulled out his dagger and cut open his belly, leaving instructions for one of his men to throw his head into the river.

His death, in 1180, is notable as perhaps the first recorded instance of the ritualistic suicide known as seppuku, but unremarkable as one of many caused by the Genpei War, the samurai civil war that swept through Japan at the tail end of the 12th century. Two noble houses, the powerful Minamoto and Taira clans, came to blows over who held the most influence over the emperor on the Chrysanthemum Throne. What followed was five years of bloodshed, false promises and backstabbing – a conflict that might better be described as the Japanese Wars of the Roses.

Twelfth-century Japan was technically ruled by an emperor, but the reality was that most of the land – and the military strength – lay in the hands of



## WHO'S WHO IN JAPAN'S GENPEI WAR



### MINAMOTO

**YORITOMO**  
(1147-99)

Clan leader of the Minamoto samurai, eventual founder of Japan's first shōgunate

**YOSHITOMO**  
(1123-60)

His father, leader of the Heiji Rebellion, former supporter of Go-Shirakawa

**YOSHITUNE**  
(1159-89)

His half-brother, a famed warrior

**YOSHINAKA**  
(1154-84)

His cousin and rival

**YUKIIE**

(d1186)  
Uncle to Yoritomo and Yoshitsune

**NORIYORI**  
(d1193)

His half-brother, an able general

**YORIMASA**  
(1106-80)

Warrior and poet, a former Taira ally returned to the fold



### THE IMPERIAL COURT

**EMPEROR GO-SHIRAKAWA**  
(r1155-58)

Though his reign only officially lasted a few years, he retained power behind the throne for almost four decades

**PRINCE MOCHIHITO**  
(d1180)

Son of Go-Shirakawa, whose claim as emperor was backed by the Minamoto

**EMPEROR ANTOKU**

(r1180-85)

Grandson of Taira Kiyomori, elevated to the Chrysanthemum Throne before his second birthday

**EMPEROR GO-TOBA**

(r1183-98)

An infant, proclaimed emperor by the Minamoto while Antoku still lived, later forced to abdicate by Yoritomo



### TAIRA

**KIYOMORI**  
(1118-81)

Clan leader of the Taira samurai, a cunning statesman who gained huge influence at court

**MUNEMORI**  
(1147-85)

His son, later clan leader

**TOMOMORI**  
(1152-85)

His son, an able commander

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Minamoto and Taira samurai clans were among the most important (and powerful) in Japan. Both traced their lineages back to previous emperors, their ancestors being minor princes who had the names Minamoto and Taira bestowed on them.



**Yoshitomo's Heiji Rebellion**  
came to nothing: Go-Shikawara  
and his puppet emperor  
escaped. Kiyomori's retribution  
was swift, violent and fiery

## MAJOR BATTLES OF THE GENPEI WAR

### MAP KEY

- Settlement
- Battle\*

\*Only major battles mentioned in the text are displayed here, with a number of smaller skirmishes omitted



provincial warlords. Chief among these far-flung powerhouses were the Taira and Minamoto samurai clans. But though they had the might, they lacked the right; prerogative power still lay with the emperor, who held court in modern-day Kyoto, then known as Heian. Since its founding as Japan's capital city, in 794 BC, Heian had become a centre of government, headed by an emperor and, by the 10th century, home to around 150,000 people. Temples, shrines, pagodas, landscaped gardens and towers made Heian one of the greatest cities in medieval East Asia.

In 1156, Japanese emperor Go-Shirakawa found himself in a precarious situation. As was customary, his father (Emperor Toba) had voluntarily 'retired' in 1155, ruling from the shadows as a 'cloistered emperor'. When Toba died, Go-Shirakawa was forced into a brief succession war – against his own brother – in which he was backed by Taira Kiyomori (leader of the Taira samurai clan) and Minamoto Yoshitomo (the son of the Minamoto clan's leader). In the aftermath, Yoshitomo was ordered to execute his own father for supporting Go-Shirakawa's brother, but he declined – leaving the deed to a Minamoto officer, who then killed himself in shame.

While Kiyomori rose to unprecedented heights, the sacrifice made by Yoshitomo

– now leader of the Minamoto samurai – went largely unrewarded. Just three years later, the bitter Yoshitomo broke out in rebellion, kidnapping Emperor Go-Shirakawa and his son, and leaving a trail of burning buildings in his wake, an event known as the Heiji Rebellion. However, with just 500 men, Yoshitomo was easily defeated by Kiyomori, and later assassinated by one of his own followers. In an act of uncharacteristic mercy, Kiyomori allowed his rival's three surviving sons, Yoritomo, Yoshitsune and Noriyori, to live in obscurity.

### HERO TO VILLAIN

In the ensuing decades, the capital remained divided between two sources of influence, that of Taira leader Kiyomori and Emperor Go-Shirakawa. When Go-Shirakawa retired to become a cloistered emperor, he appointed a series of puppet emperors that he controlled, bringing in a fresh face every few years.

Meanwhile Kiyomori, the first provincial warrior to be appointed chancellor of the realm, filled the royal court with fellow Taira clan members and the palaces with spies. After uncovering a conspiracy against him in 1177, Kiyomori seized scores of manors and, egregiously and against holy law,

tortured and then executed one of the conspirators, a monk named Saikō. Two years later, Kiyomori placed Go-Shirakawa under house arrest, replaced scores of officers with Taira clansmen and forced the sitting 'puppet' emperor to abdicate the throne to his own two-year-old grandson, Antoku.

Furious at being overlooked for the throne, Go-Shirakawa's son Prince Mochihito found support in the most unlikely of places, the 74-year-old poet Minamoto Yorimasa, who had recently retired from a long military career. Having previously sided with the Taira against his own clan, Yorimasa was described by Kiyomori as a lone beacon of honesty among the Minamoto.

Continues on p52

**"Kiyomori considered Yorimasa to be the lone beacon of honesty among the Minamoto"**

# THE SAMURAI UNMASKED

While Japan's central imperial government once held a monopoly over land, by the 10th century, the provinces had been taken over by temples, shrines and private individuals. Landlords not only offered their peasants preferable tax rates, but protection – training them in archery, horse riding and hunting. They developed hierarchies, with long-serving families awarded senior positions, giving rise to the emerging warrior class of samurai.

In the AD 930s, a warrior called Taira Masakado rose up in revolt, declaring himself emperor and seceding the Kantō plain, surrounding modern-day Tokyo. Soon after, the pirate king, Sumitomo – from the

powerful Fujiwara clan, who controlled the imperial regency – began raiding the west. Amidst an outpouring of bloodletting and arson, where soldiers wrenched heads off fallen enemies to prove their prowess, the samurai began to formalise new customs – announcing their names on the battlefield. Fighting in colourful scale and plate armour, they relished bold shows of individual heroism.

The imperial court was only able to suppress the rebels with the aid of provincial warlords. In the next two centuries, the Taira and Minamoto clans would prove valuable allies in suppressing revolts, growing in prestige until they eclipsed even the Fujiwara and, soon enough, the emperor himself.



1. Abumi (stirrups) were used by horse-mounted samurai, and enclosed the front half of the foot.
2. Short bows like this, known as a kago hankyū, were designed for use by persons travelling by palanquin – a small enclosed box suspended from a pole and carried.
3. A samurai tachi dating from the 14th century. A samurai traditionally carried two swords, one long (like this one), and one short.



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Committed samurai would cut the cords that held their armour together so short that they would only be able to be knotted once. This meant the samurai would be unable to retie them again and symbolised his intention not to return alive should the battle be lost.

### KABUTO

Samurai helmets had a hole in the their top, known as the 'vent to the sky'. Hachiman, the Japanese god of war, was believed to descend through this hole and empower the warrior for battle.

### MEMPO

Samurai facial armour was practical as well as fearsome: it counterbalanced the heavy kabuto, and many designs included a hole under the chin to let the sweat drain out.

### ARMED AND READY

This set of samurai armour dates to the 18th century, when there was a revival of interest in medieval Japanese culture. The armour is modelled on a style of samurai armour from the 12th-13th centuries.

### TEKKO

Padded handguards or gauntlets.

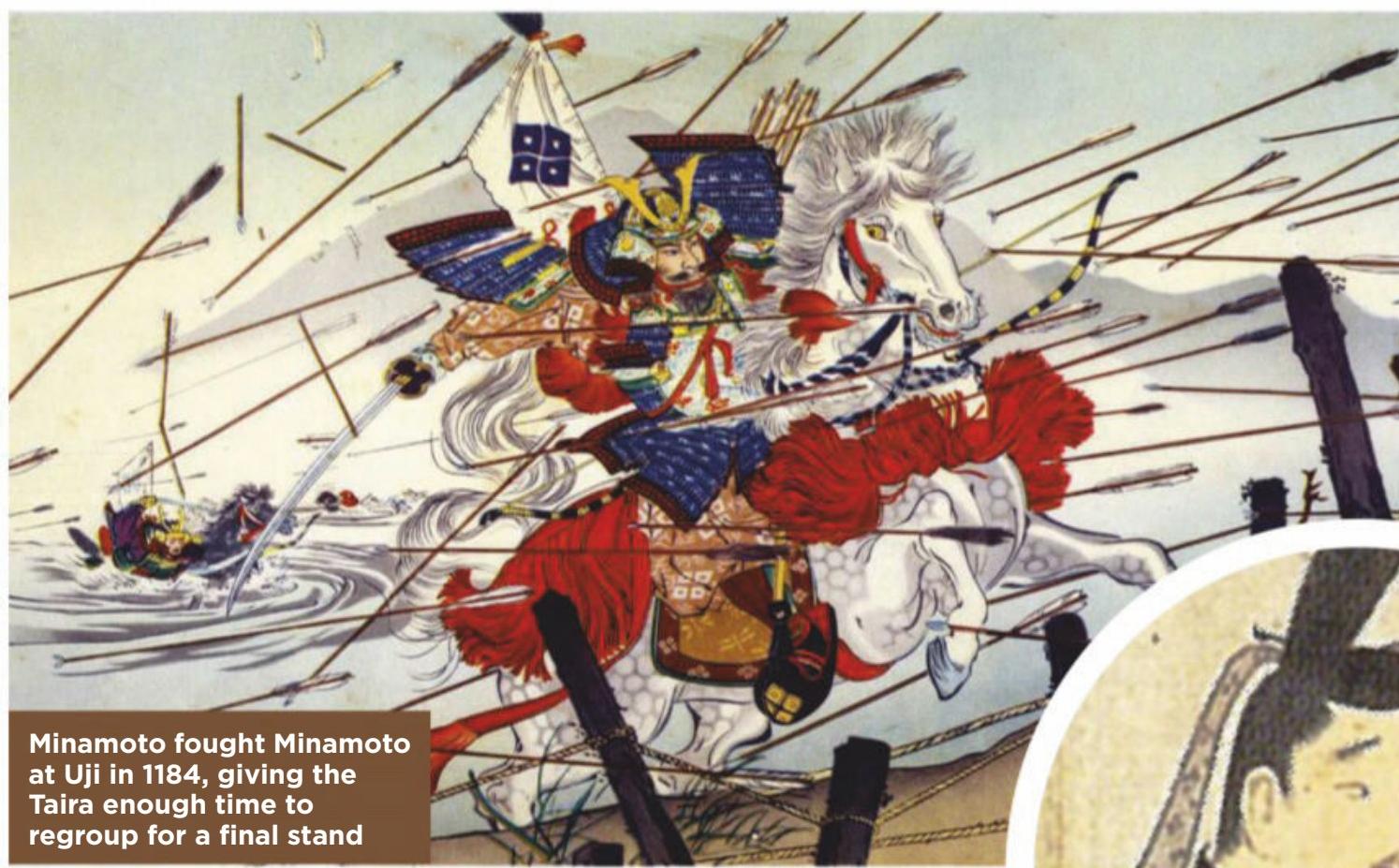
### DŌ (ARMOUR)

The knots on a samurai's armour were tied to the front, as was traditionally done for the deceased. Dressing in the manner of a corpse meant the samurai was prepared for a possible journey to the afterlife.

### KUSAZURI

The armoured skirt, attached to a leather belt, shielded the thighs, hips, groin and posterior from injury.





**Minamoto fought Minamoto at Uji in 1184, giving the Taira enough time to regroup for a final stand**

Decades of familial shame finally boiled over when one of Kiyomori's sons, named Munemori, stole a horse from Yorimasa's son and mockingly named it after him (the son, that is). Furious, Yorimasa sent word to his Minamoto clansmen and monasteries in the east and north, imploring them to support the rightful emperor Prince Mochihito, and overthrow the Taira once and for all. With just a few hundred followers, the rebels recruited warrior monks from the temple at Miidera, before heading south towards the monasteries of Nara.

When Yorimasa's warrior monks were intercepted by Taira forces at a small town on the Uji river, they tore up the bridge, mounting an impassioned defence. Taira cavalry were hastily sent across the rapids to deal with them – a gamble that allowed them to overtake and encircle the rebels.

It wasn't long before the poet Yorimasa carried out his famous seppuku. Prince Mochihito was killed soon after and the great temples of Nara – including the huge 8th-century Tōdaiji temple complex, once the largest and most powerful temple in Japan – were burned, with 3,500 monks cut down in the process. Though the Taira had acted decisively, Yorimasa's honourable death had made him a martyr. The Genpei War was about to begin.

### PRODIGAL SONS

Emerging from a life in exile, Yoritomo – the eldest surviving son of the rebellious Yoshitomo, who now claimed leadership of the Minamoto – descended on the mountains of Hakone with a pitiful 200

warriors and was roundly defeated in his first major battle at Ishibashiyama (see map on p49). He escaped and travelled east, scooping up soldiers from sympathetic landowners who had been alienated by the Taira clan's self-serving tyranny. The following month, having amassed 30,000 men, Yoritomo launched a decisive night attack against a Taira camp.

In March 1181, the Taira were greeted with further ill fortune when their fearless, long-suffering leader Kiyomori died, imploring his sons never to allow Yoritomo's bones a burial. His son,



**Taira Munemori proved to be less cunning than his father, and paid for it with his life**

**"When Kiyomori died, he implored his sons never to allow Yoritomo's bones a burial"**

and successor, the feckless Munemori, faced both dwindling supplies and diminishing support, with many families under the Taira blanket defecting to Yoritomo's cause. Matters were made worse the following year, when the capital was rocked by famine and pestilence.

Rather than chase the Taira, Yoritomo remained at his base in Kamakura, strengthening his authority in the east (and briefly waging war against his cousin, Minamoto Yoshinaka, until the two joined forces). It wasn't until 1183,

after a series of tug-of-war skirmishes in the north, that the tide finally began to shift in Yoritomo's favour and he won his greatest victory.

Little is known about the realities of samurai warfare, other than dramatic battle descriptions in war chronicles and epic tales, and the handful of samurai texts that have survived. Trained from childhood, early samurai rode and fought on horseback; upon receiving orders to fight, samurai would leave their fortified manor houses or barracks in a flurry of activity, parading their personal banners and ancient family emblems as they rode off to war. Women played no role in a samurai warrior's send-off, however; they were not even permitted to be in sight of the warring men in case their 'yin' (female) energy affected the 'yang' (male) energy that would be required in the battles to come.

### BATTLE TACTICS

In June, at Mount Tonamiyama, having gathered his loyal samurai warriors, Yoshinaka fooled 40,000 Taira into thinking his 5,000-strong army was much larger than it really was by erecting a slew of white decoy battle standards atop a hill. The trick worked and the Taira chose to briefly rest on the mountain and water their horses. Seizing his advantage, Yoshinaka – who had secretly divided his army into three – drew the Taira forces into what seemed like a traditional archery duel, only to sneak the remaining two detachments around them. At sunset, as one unit surprised the Taira rear, another unleashed a stampeding herd of oxen with flaming torches fixed to their horns. In the ensuing chaos, 20,000 Taira warriors were gored. The next month, as Yoshinaka bore down on Heian, cloistered emperor Go-Shirakawa defected to the Minamoto under the guise of a religious pilgrimage. Terrified, Munemori abandoned the capital, taking Antoku with him.

When Yoshinaka arrived soon after (and with his brief war with Yoritomo still in his mind) he began plotting with Yoritomo's uncle, Minamoto Yukiie, to kidnap Go-Shirakawa and set up a rival government in the north. However, Yukiie had a change of heart. He revealed all to Go-Shirakawa, who



This 19th-century print commemorates the battle of Ishibashiyama, where Yoritomo first battled the Taira in 1180. It was a disaster for the Minamoto; Yoritomo himself is said to have escaped capture by hiding in a tree trunk.

真田與市義忠

# DID YOU KNOW?

**TO KNOW?**  
Samurai armour was attuned with the five Taoist elements: wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Helmets, armour and even the colour of the horse had to be in unison; the colours of fire and water, for example, should never be matched together.



Another Taira – Atsumori – earned fame eternal for his death in single combat in 1184. Tradition holds that the man who slew him was so distraught that he became a monk

↳ leaked the plot to Yoritomo – he, in turn, commanded his half-brothers Noriyori and Yoshitsune to attack their ambitious cousin. Enraged, Yoshinaka burned down Go-Shirakawa's palace, and forced the cloistered emperor to declare him Shōgun, which essentially amounted to him becoming a military dictator. Despite the grandiosity of the title, it was of little consequence – Yoshitsune drove Yoshinaka out of the capital soon after, defeating him at near Uji, and delivering him into the clutches of Noriyori, whose archers shot him down in a rice paddy.

Although the Minamoto infighting allowed the Taira to regroup near modern-day Osaka, they could not have prepared for the genius of Yoshitsune. In early 1184, at the Battle of Ichinotani, he split his army in two, sending the bulk of his forces with Noriyori into some woods, while he led 100 shock cavalry up a mountain overlooking the Taira camp. Come nightfall, as Noriyori attacked, Yoshitsune launched a suicidal charge down the mountain, setting fire to the camp and enveloping the enemy with deadly precision.

The Taira survivors fled to the island of Shikoku, while Yoshitsune returned



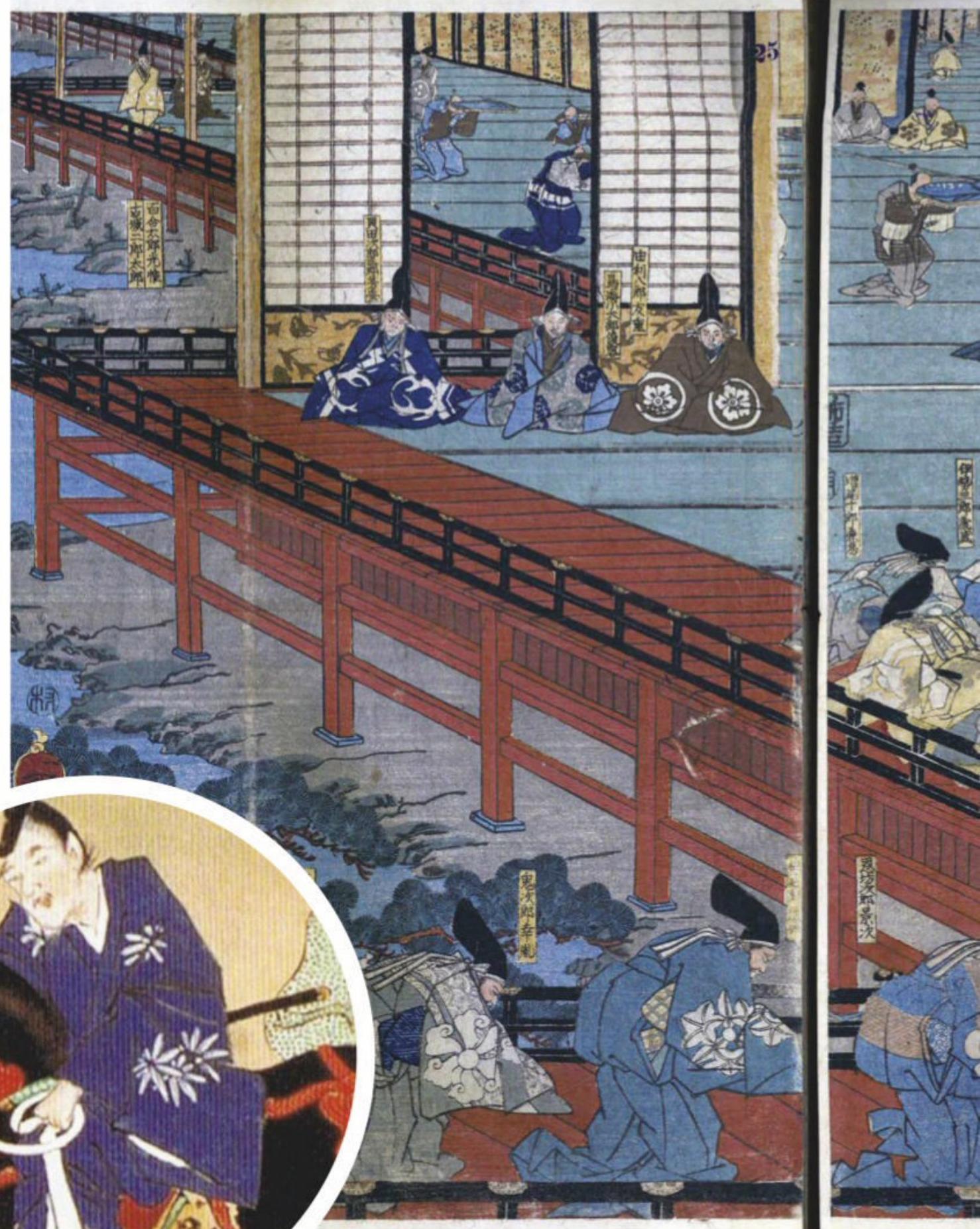
to the capital a hero. With the jealous Yoritomo yet to recognise his victorious half-brother, Go-Shirakawa took it upon himself to bestow Yoshitsune with honours, sensing an opportunity to divide the Minamoto power base. Meanwhile, Noriyori, who had followed the Taira deep into their traditional heartlands, was struggling to procure supplies, with local lords loathe to hand any over.

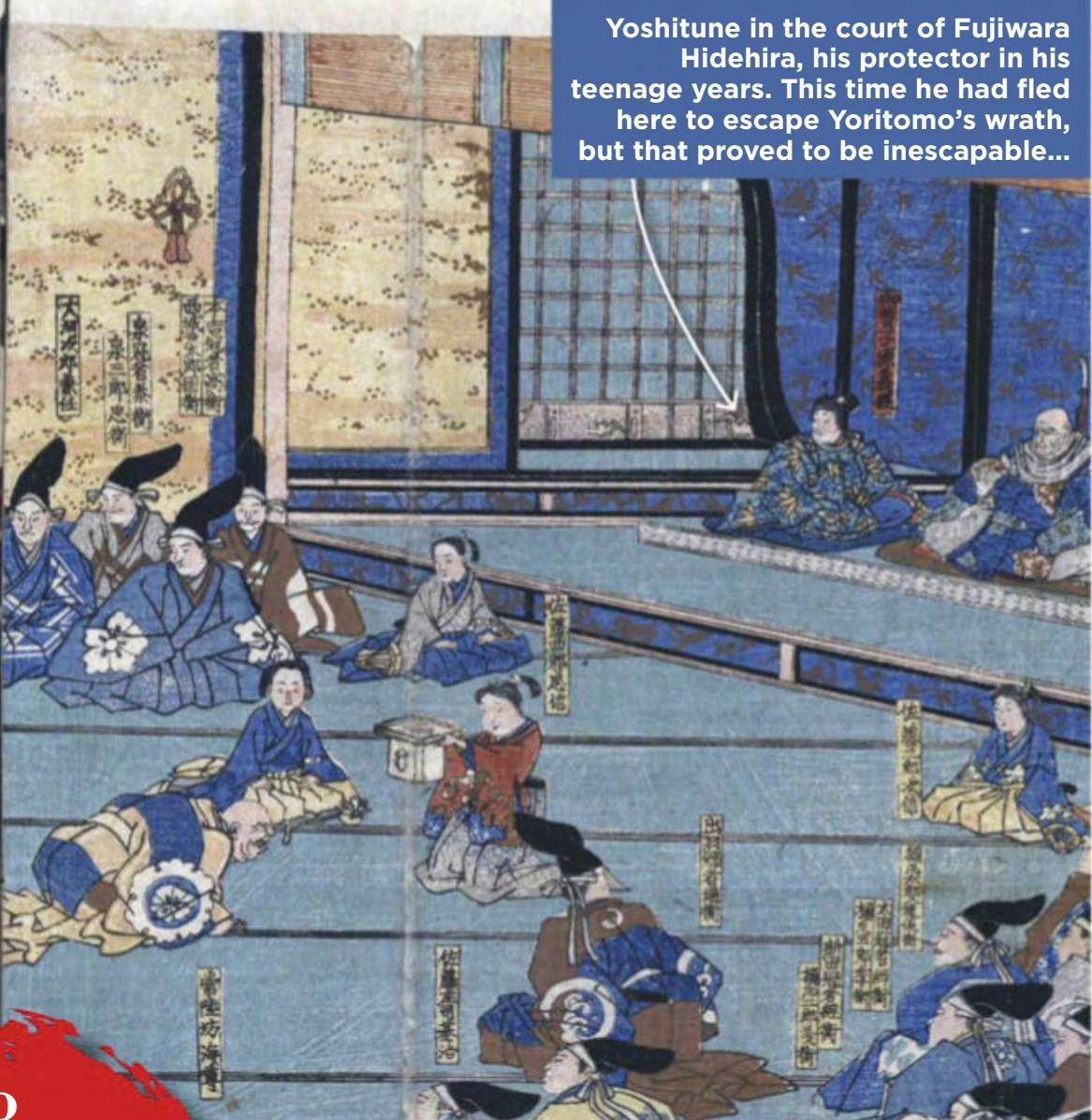
After a six-month stalemate, Yoritomo finally unleashed Yoshitsune. Riding through the night, Yoshitsune lit fires to give the impression of an enormous invading army, frightening Munemori into abandoning his makeshift palace at Yashima. The Taira leader fled 200

INSET: Minamoto Yukiie was embroiled in two plots to wrest power from clan leader Yoritomo

miles west, linking up with Tomomori's forces along the Shimonoseki Strait. Yoshitsune's reputation preceded him. His arrival inspired local magnates to gift hundreds of ships, complete with crews. Finally, in March 1185, he set sail for a climatic showdown at Dannoura to face the combined Taira armies, leaving Noriyori to prevent any escape by land.

**“Go-Shirakawa sensed an opportunity to divide the Minamoto power base”**





### DID YOU KNOW?

A set of arrows in a samurai's quiver was never meant to be used – in life, that is. Locked into place, this set was meant to accompany the samurai to the afterlife if he were to die in battle.



## SUNKEN SCHEMES

On 25 April, Kiyomori's son, Tomomori, who knew the straits better than anyone, sailed out on the early current, choosing to fight where the riptide was strongest. Though he outnumbered the Minamoto, with 450 ships to their 300, by noon the currents had turned on him, and when a prominent admiral defected, Yoshitsune seized the momentum. Facing utter annihilation and preferring to drown rather than be captured, Tomomori leapt into the depths, clad in his heavy armour. The Minamoto had emerged victorious.

The code of honour and ideals (known as Bushidō) that guided conduct in war, and for which the samurai are now so famous, would not be fully developed until the 17th and 18th centuries; in the wake of the Genpei War, Taira refugees were hunted down and killed with even

the children buried alive, drowned or butchered.

Yet more blood was shed within the Minamoto clan itself, as Yoritomo and Yoshitsune struggled for power. But when the formidable Go-Shirakawa died in 1192, and with his rival samurai either murdered or having committed seppuku, Yoritomo made his status official, becoming Japan's first Shōgun.

A visionary if ruthless leader, Yoritomo had delivered the Minamoto to glory, the likes of which no clan had ever known. Though the Minamoto's supremacy would be squandered by Yoritomo's sons, the rule of the samurai would last for the better part of a millennium. In the crucible of total war,

**Yoritomo's statue stands in Kamakura, the region in which the shōgunate he established would rule for 150 years**

the samurai identity was crystallised – with a new paradigm of violence for a new order. One where suicide was preferable to capture, and power was laid bare, for whomever was bold enough to seize it. ◎

## GET HOOKED



### LISTEN

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the history of the Samurai in an episode of *In Our Time*  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00pcm9f](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00pcm9f)

### READ

*Samurai Arms, Armour and the Tactics of Warfare*  
by Antony Cummins (Watkins, 2018)



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Being invited to become  
a 'guest' of the Tower of  
London in medieval England  
meant, more often than  
not, that you would soon  
be food for the crows

# 10

# HORRIFYING HAUNTS

With Halloween lurking on the horizon, **Emma Slattery Williams** explores the spooky histories of some of Britain's scariest sites – from petrifying pubs to creepy castles.

Turn the page, if you dare...

Anne wasn't the only one of Henry VIII's queens to lose her head at the Tower: Catherine Howard suffered the same fate in 1542

### DID YOU KNOW?

Anne Boleyn's ghost is one of the most well-travelled. She reportedly also haunts Hever Castle, Blickling Hall, Marwell Hall and Windsor Castle, all while carrying her severed head.



## TOWER OF LONDON

With almost 950 years of history, the Tower of London is the scene of myriad bloody tales, having been both a prison and place of execution. Anne Boleyn, the doomed second wife of Henry VIII, was beheaded here in 1536, charged with treason. Her ghost has been seen walking around the Church of St Peter ad Vincula, where she is buried, with her severed head tucked under her arm. Anne has also been spotted in the White Tower. In 1864, a guard challenged a ghostly figure near where Anne had been imprisoned – only his colleague's corroboration of the spectral vision saved him from being charged with fainting on duty.

Perhaps the Tower's most famous past inhabitants are the two missing Princes of

York – the sons of Edward IV, who were kept here by their uncle, Richard III, but never seen or heard from again. Many maintain that Richard ordered their deaths. Their true fate remains a mystery, but sightings of two young boys in white gowns have been regularly reported for years.

Not all the castle's ghosts are human. For much of its history, the Tower of London was home to the Royal Menagerie, where leopards, lions and even an elephant were kept. In 1816, a sentry claimed he saw a ghostly bear charge towards him. He tried to spear it with his bayonet, only to find that his weapon went straight through the apparition. The guard is said to have died of shock a few days later.  
[www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london](http://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london)

## BORLEY RECTORY, ESSEX

This dwelling has often been referred to as the most haunted house in England and has even had a mention in the survival horror videogame series *Silent Hill*. From phantom coaches driven by headless horsemen to creepy unexplained footsteps, this house seems to have it all.

Built in 1862, the building was subject to a persistent rumour about being haunted by a nun who had been bricked up alive in the walls of a nearby convent after falling in love. It was said that the nun roamed the rectory, and locals reported seeing strange happenings around the area, including a floating nun. Weird whisperings and bells ringing by themselves were also reported and these stories attracted the attention of the media and paranormal investigators. Psychic researcher Harry Price visited Borley in 1929, and subsequently took out a year-long lease on the rectory in 1937; he documented vases throwing themselves on the floor as well as spirit messages communicated through mirrors. Two years later the rectory was gutted by fire, and was eventually torn down in 1944.



Ghost sightings were reported at Borley Rectory even after fire rendered it a ruin in 1939



The first theatre on Drury Lane was erected in 1663

## THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, LONDON

As well as being the oldest theatre site still in use in London, the Theatre Royal on Drury Lane holds the prestigious title of being the most haunted theatre in the world. Its most famous inhabitant is the Man in Grey, a phantom who appears in a tricorn hat, powdered wig and long grey coat. A skeleton with a knife through his heart was discovered in the 1840s, buried in the spot where the ghost reportedly vanishes. The floating head of Joseph Grimaldi's famous clown, in whiteface make-up (Grimaldi was the father of modern clowning) has also been seen, apparently helping struggling actors through their performances. Another, the so-called Helping Hand ghost, has been known to prod actors into the correct position on stage.

Some who tread this hallowed theatre's boards still report hearing their name being called by an unknown voice, feeling a tug on their jacket or a mysterious gust of wind. Any performance graced with the presence of a ghost is supposed to receive good luck.  
[www.lwtheatres.co.uk/theatres/theatre-royal-drury-lane](http://www.lwtheatres.co.uk/theatres/theatre-royal-drury-lane)

## CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD, SCOTLAND

The Battle of Culloden took place nearly 275 years ago but, according to locals, if you listen closely you can still hear the clash of swords and the cries of the doomed rising from the moor. Often cited as the last battle to be fought on British soil, the 1746 encounter was a final attempt by the Jacobites to reinstate a Stuart monarch to the throne. For more than 50 years after the so-called Glorious Revolution, which had placed William III and Mary II in power, supporters of the deposed James II and VII had been fighting to restore him – and later his descendants – to the throne. Their efforts came to a bloody end at Culloden, where Jacobite troops, led by Charles Edward Stuart, were brutally defeated by Hanoverian forces loyal to King George II. More than 1,500 Jacobite soldiers were killed.

On 16 August, the anniversary of the battle, the spirits of the valiant soldiers who lost their lives in 1746 are said to return to the battlefield to replay the bloody conflict. A defeated Highlander has also supposedly been seen walking amongst the bodies of his fallen comrades.  
[www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden](http://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culloden)



Locals say that birds don't sing over the battlefield at Culloden. Do the spectres of the fallen keep them away? >

## JAMAICA INN, CORNWALL

Sitting on the desolate Bodmin Moor, Jamaica Inn is a veritable haven of horror. The 18th-century coaching inn was a favoured haunt for smugglers and pirates, and found wider fame after Daphne Du Maurier's 1936 novel of the same name. The menacing sound of horses' hooves on the cobbles outside are said to be heard even when the courtyard is empty, while previous occupants of the inn have reported hearing strange whisperings in a foreign tongue, believed to be old Cornish, as well as footsteps creaking along the corridors.

According to one local legend, there was once a visitor to the inn who had been summoned out into the night, leaving his ale unfinished. His body was found on the moor the following day, the cause of his death a mystery. Then, in 1911, a story emerged of a figure who had been seen sitting outside the inn, never uttering a word to anyone. Many believed it was the ghost of the dead man, coming back to finish his pint.

[www.jamaicainn.co.uk](http://www.jamaicainn.co.uk)



The inn is said to be named because the chief 'import' stashed there by smugglers was rum, brought from (you've guessed it) Jamaica

## BERRY POMEROY CASTLE, DEVON

This romantic ruin in Devon is supposedly one of the most haunted castles in Britain. Built in the 15th century, it was the home of Edward Seymour, Lord Protector to Edward VI and brother of Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII. Abandoned in the 17th century, the picturesque ruin was beloved by Victorian visitors.

Two ladies are believed to haunt the castle. The Blue Lady apparently calls passers-by for help before luring them to their deaths – legend says that she mourns for her child, the result of an incestuous relationship with her father. St Margaret's Tower is also home to the spectral White Lady, rumoured to be the spirit of Lady Margaret Pomeroy. Imprisoned by her jealous sister, Margaret starved to death in the castle's dungeon and an evil presence has reportedly been felt nearby.

Pomeroy's Leap, on the castle ramparts, is where two brothers are said to have taken their own lives – leaping to their deaths on their horses to evade enemy capture while the castle was under siege. Their spine-chilling screams and whinnying horses have been reported by many who stand at this spot. As recently as 2018, visitors to the castle claim to have captured photographs of the ghostly riders.

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berry-pomeroy-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/berry-pomeroy-castle)



A stay in Chillingham's Castle's dungeon was a one-way trip for these unfortunate souls

## CHILLINGHAM CASTLE, NORTHUMBERLAND

With a name like Chillingham, it's not surprising that this 13th-century castle boasts paranormal activity. Multiple ghosts are said to be in residence, including an eerie white figure in the inner pantry, begging for water. The silver of the castle used to be stored in that room. One night, a footman guarding it came across the apparition and, believing her to be a guest, the man went to fetch her a drink. But then he suddenly remembered that he was locked in the room; no one else could possibly have entered.

Creepy voices have also been heard whispering throughout the chapel, whilst in the dungeon, a trap door in the floor reveals the bones of a child in the vault below. And, of course, the torture chamber is full of gruesome implements, including a stretching rack and an iron maiden.

[www.chillingham-castle.com](http://www.chillingham-castle.com)



The Tudor mansion within the walls of Berry Pomeroy Castle was to be one of the stateliest piles in all England – but it was left unfinished

## YOU DID YOU KNOW?

The Kent village of Pluckley entered the *Guinness Book of Records* in 1989 for being the "most haunted" village in Britain. No fewer than 12 ghosts were recorded, including a phantom highwayman.

THE BIRTH OF A DYNASTY

Painted eyes in the so-called Haunted Gallery may seem to follow you around the room

# HAMPTON COURT PALACE, SURREY

A favourite haunt of Henry VIII (and many monarchs after him), Hampton Court is allegedly home to a host of ghostly characters who stalk its grounds. A mix of Tudor and Baroque architecture, the palace boasts more than 200 years of royal history and has plenty of spooky stories to tell.

Two of Henry VIII's wives are believed to be spending their afterlife terrifying visitors to this former royal residence. Jane Seymour, Henry's third wife, died soon after the birth of their son, the future Edward VI. Legend has it that she appears as a wraith, carrying a lit taper on the stairs leading to the room where she died in 1537.

The Haunted Gallery is now so named

because Henry's fifth wife, Catherine Howard, is said to have run down it in terror after she was arrested for treason in 1541. She failed to attract the attention of the King and was beheaded in 1542, aged just 19. Her anguishing cries and frightening presence have been reported by visitors and staff alike. This part of the palace is where the most supernatural occurrences have been reported – two female visitors in separate groups fainted here on the same spot on the same day in 1999.

In 2003, CCTV footage captured a ghostly skeletal figure in a hood flinging open a fire door after hours, with staff still none the wiser as to who it was or how it happened.

[www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)



**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Where is your favourite haunted historical hideaway? Which legend of a gruesome secret or sticky end makes your blood run cold? Let us know by emailing [haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com](mailto:haveyoursay@historyrevealed.com)

## THE SKIRRID MOUNTAIN INN, MONMOUTHSHIRE

Although the current inn near Abergavenny dates from the 17th century, local legend states that there has been a public house here for centuries. Supposedly it was a popular spot for supporters of the 15th-century Welsh revolt led by Owain Glyndŵr against Henry IV. Spooky stories say that the inn was used as a court of law by the infamous 17th-century Judge George Jeffreys, commonly known as the Hanging Judge. Hangings were apparently carried out from an oak beam over the inn's staircase, with markings from the noose still said to be visible. The victims of these hangings are said to haunt the inn, along with Jeffreys himself, looking for his next target. The inn lies at the bottom of Ysgyryd Fawr, an isolated peak in the Black Mountains. This ancient mountain has its own mythology – known locally as the Holy Mountain, a lightning strike or earthquake is supposed to have caused an almighty landslide at the same time as the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

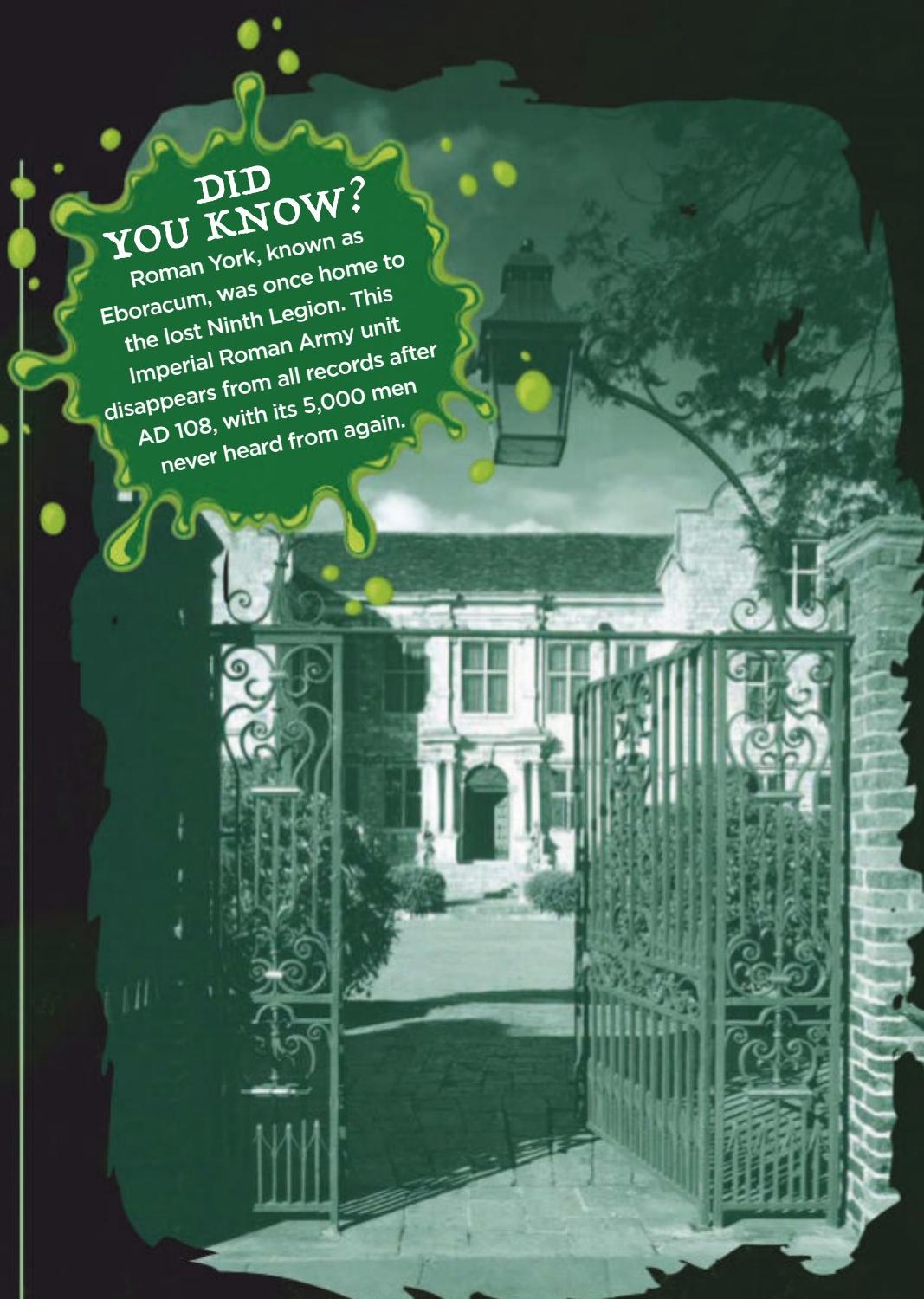
[www.skirridmountaininn.co.uk](http://www.skirridmountaininn.co.uk)



An alleged 180 or so criminals are said to have 'danced' on the end of a rope at the Skirrid Mountain Inn

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Roman York, known as Eboracum, was once home to the lost Ninth Legion. This Imperial Roman Army unit disappears from all records after AD 108, with its 5,000 men never heard from again.



This period property has an infestation of spectral Roman soldiers, apparently

## TREASURER'S HOUSE, YORK

Originally the medieval home of the treasurers of York Minster, the Treasurer's House still retains its 12th-century masonry but the majority of this grand house dates from the 16th century. Its basement, however, hides a more ancient secret. The house was built directly over the main Roman road leading out of York – Roman column bases can still be seen. In 1953, apprentice heating engineer Henry Martindale was installing a boiler in the basement when he experienced something that stopped him in his tracks. The sound of trumpets rang out, and a legion of Roman soldiers walked out of the wall. Henry claimed to have seen about 20 soldiers, complete with swords, helmets and horses. He reported that these men looked tired and weary and carried round shields. At this time, archaeological research suggested that Roman soldiers only used rectangular shields, so his story was discredited. More recent finds, however, have shown that the soldiers stationed around York in the 4th century AD may have indeed carried round shields. Many other sightings of these Roman soldiers have been reported, perhaps doomed to walk this particular road for eternity.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/treasurers-house-york](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/treasurers-house-york)

**GET HOOKED****LISTEN**

A collection of Halloween-inspired programming is available in the BBC Radio 4 vaults, including an *In Our Time* episode on witchcraft in Reformation-era Europe  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01jzhs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01jzhs)

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Martin Read



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Heather Burnside



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George Stewart

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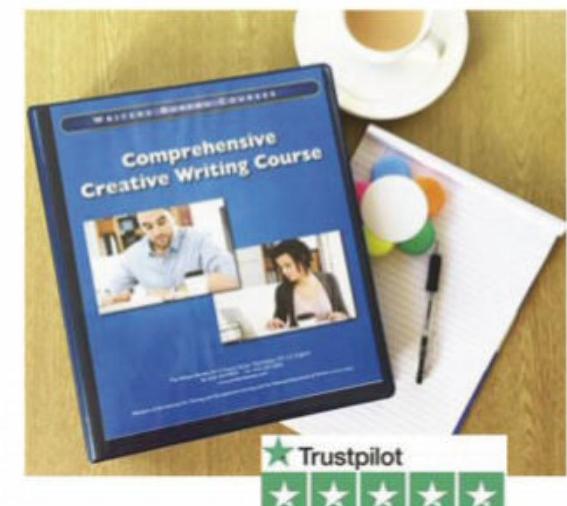
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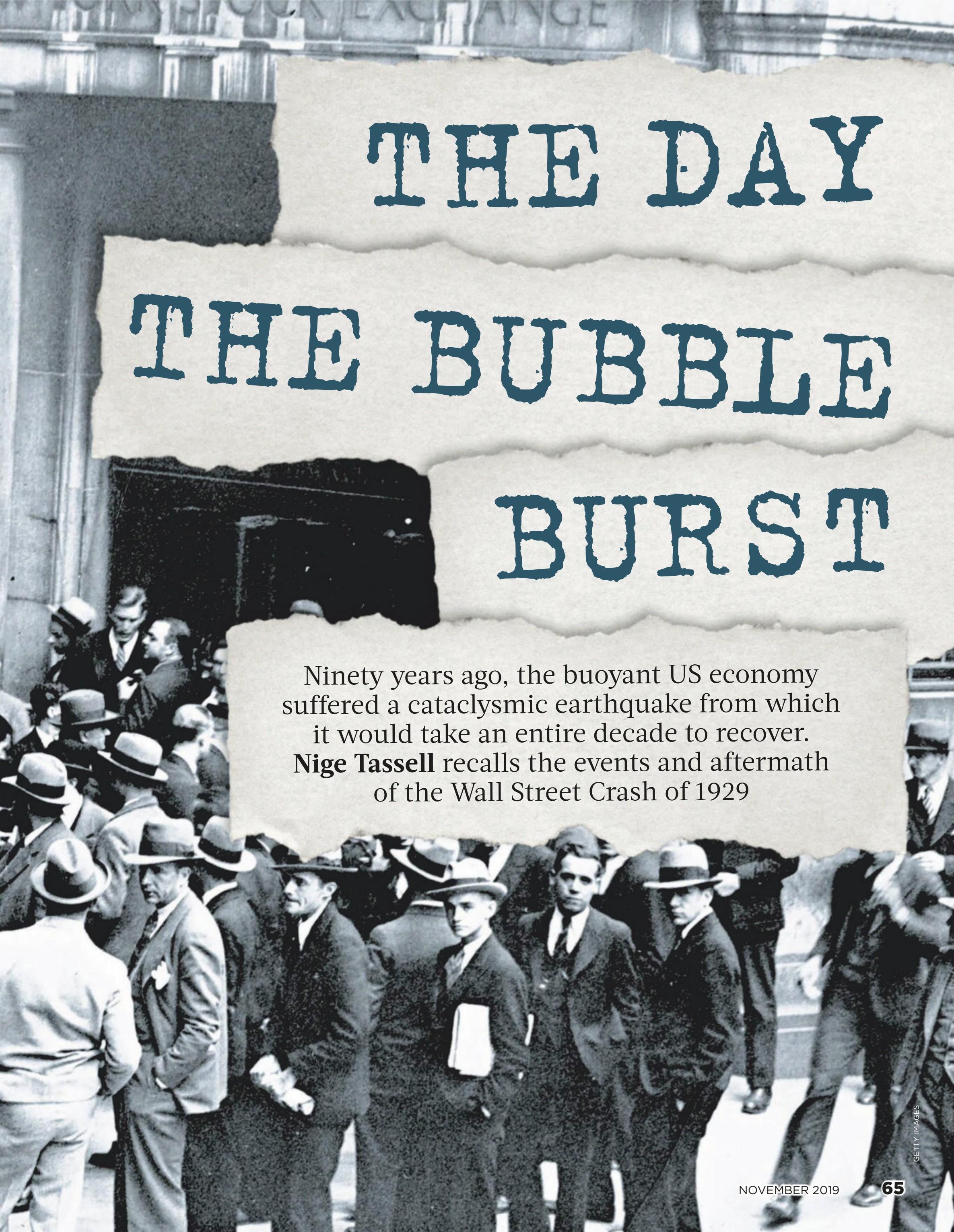
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## WALL STREET CRASH

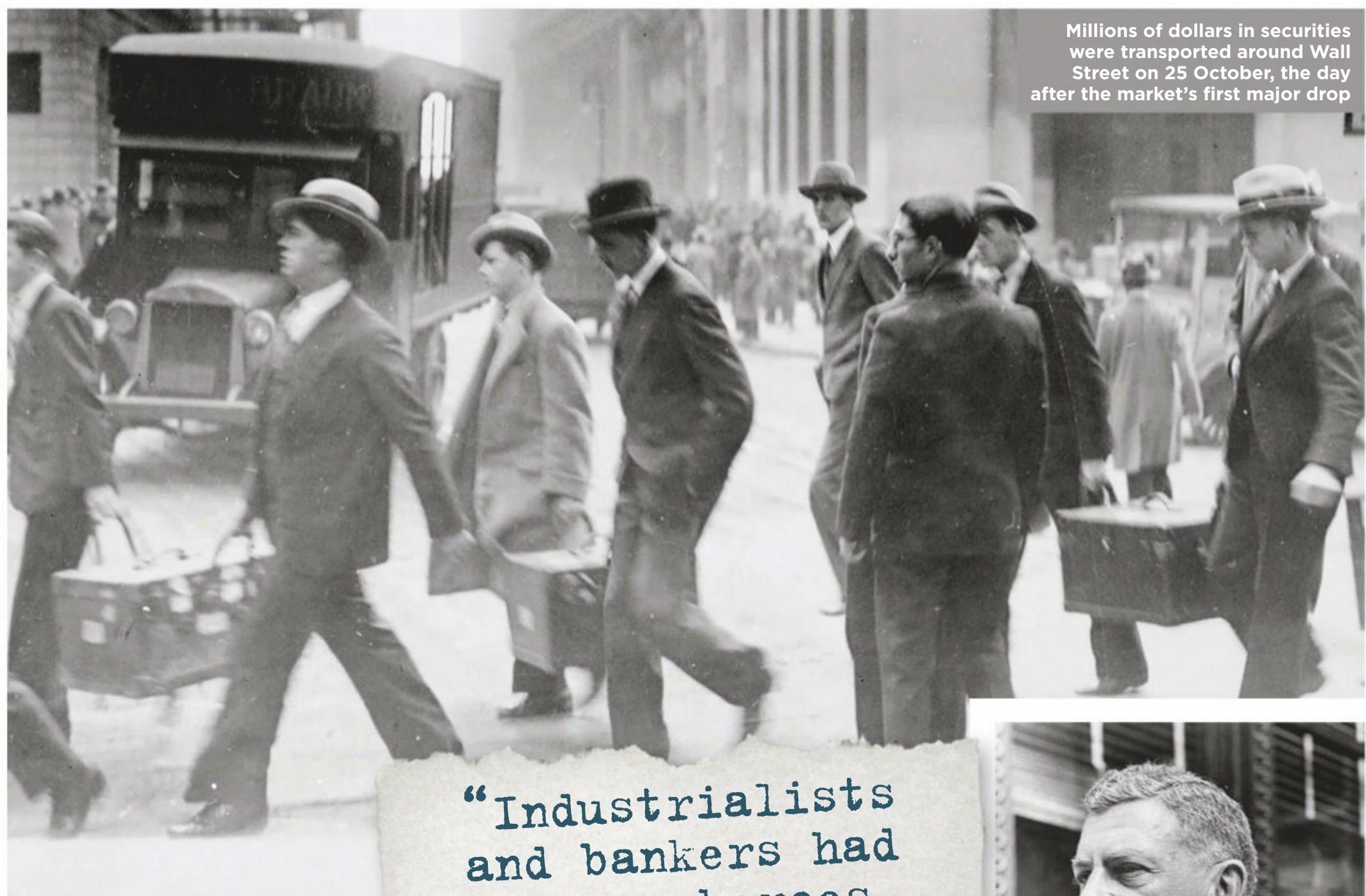


Scores of people milled about the entrance to the Stock Exchange on 24 October 1929, as the market went through the greatest shake up in its history. It was a light tremor heralding the earthquake to come



# THE DAY THE BUBBLE BURST

Ninety years ago, the buoyant US economy suffered a cataclysmic earthquake from which it would take an entire decade to recover. **Nige Tassell** recalls the events and aftermath of the Wall Street Crash of 1929



Millions of dollars in securities were transported around Wall Street on 25 October, the day after the market's first major drop

**“Industrialists and bankers had become heroes, of the nation”**

**O**n Thursday 24 October 1929, Wall Street – a narrow thoroughfare at the southern tip of Manhattan Island – was unusually busy. Extremely busy. The street’s most significant building, the New York Stock Exchange, didn’t open for business until 10am, but vast crowds were gathering.

This didn’t mean good news. It was neither a homecoming nor a victory parade. Instead, the atmosphere was thick with concern, with fear, with panic. In the last hour of trading the previous afternoon, the financial market had plummeted, with 2.6 million shares being sold in a chaotic last flurry of business. Flurry is perhaps too gentle an adjective. It was a hurricane.

The very visible concern on the streets of Lower Manhattan the next morning was understandable. The market maintained its downward spiral for the rest of that week and into the next. The following Monday saw it drop 12.8 per cent in value. On Tuesday – henceforth known as Black Tuesday – a further 12 per cent fall was recorded. Those who had gathered the previous Thursday to

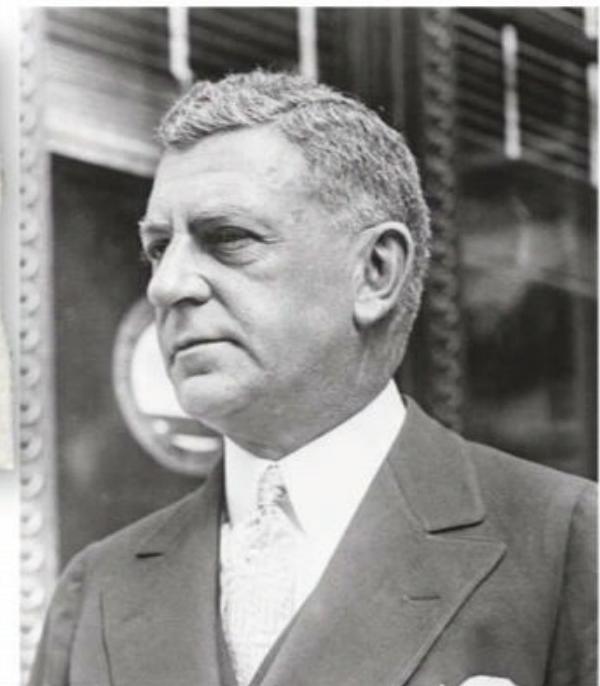
show concern were now crestfallen and broken. As the *New York Times* reported, the sense of resignation on Wall Street, the reality of personal financial ruin, was ubiquitous. “There were no smiles. There were no tears, either. Just the camaraderie of fellow sufferers. Everybody wanted to tell their neighbour how much he had lost. Nobody wanted to listen. It was too repetitious a tale.”

#### AGE OF PROSPERITY

No-one could claim to have foreseen what occurred across those six days in October 1929. For several years, the US had been on a roll. Unlike the other industrial nations – which, after the four devastating years of World War I, were severely damaged or close to breaking economically – the US, thanks to its late entry into the war, emerged comparatively unscathed, financially.

The following decade saw a tremendous transformation, both

**Charles Edward Mitchell's brokers gave Americans an easy route through which they could invest in the stock market**



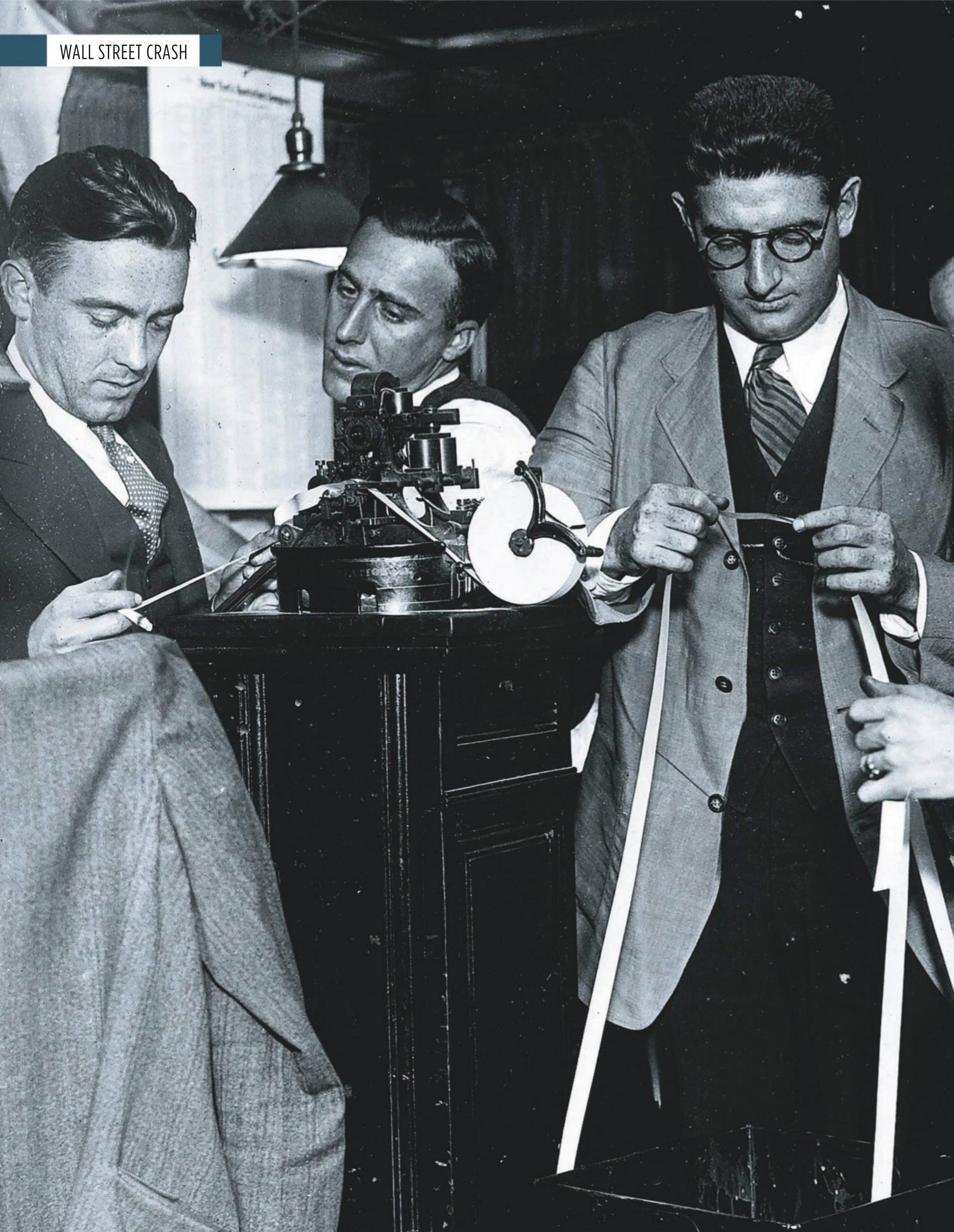
industrially and culturally, from coast to coast. The cotton was high. “Jobs were plentiful and paychecks grew steadily,” observed Wall Street financial journalist Karen Blumenthal. “The 1920s didn’t just sing with the rhythms of jazz, or swing with the dancing of the Charleston. They roared with the confidence and optimism of a prosperous era.”

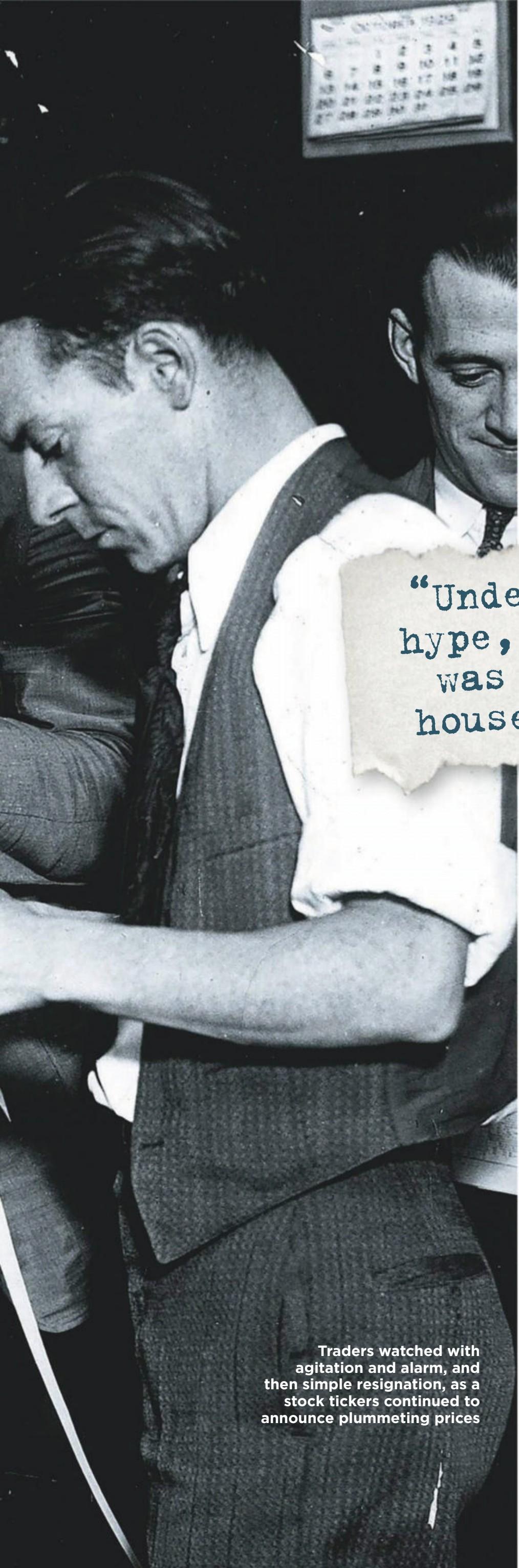
During the Roaring Twenties, industrialists and bankers became heroes of the nation, as well as being admired with the riches they had created for themselves. And the average American fancied a small fortune of their own. It would be Charles Mitchell, the president of National City Bank and thus one of



A cleaner tackles the sorry mess within the Stock Exchange on 29 October, following the market's collapse; the economic mess, on the other hand, would need much more than a broom to fix

WALL STREET CRASH





Traders watched with agitation and alarm, and then simple resignation, as a stock tickers continued to announce plummeting prices

“Underneath the hype, the market was a fragile, house of cards”

These feted figures, who would offer the passage to such prosperity.

Mitchell took his inspiration from the success of liberty bonds, which had been issued to the public during the last two years of World War I as a way of financing the Allied war effort. Promoted by cultural icons like Charlie Chaplin and Al Jolson, the public – seeing such outlay as a patriotic duty (especially when they earned up to 4.25 per cent in interest) – were thus introduced to the notion of investment. They might have been underwritten by government, but the success of liberty bonds meant that, to the public’s mind at least, putting savings into stocks and shares on the financial market was now seen as respectable, when previously it had been deemed risky.

Mitchell opened brokers’ offices across the country to satisfy, and further encourage, this dabbling on the stock market. By the mid-1920s, three million Americans were stock investors, seduced by the magnetic pull of getting rich in such an uncomplicated way. The market was in the ascendancy. For instance, if an investor bought shares in either the department store chain Montgomery Ward or the utility firm General Electric in March 1928, they’d see their money doubled within just 18 months.



Movie stars such as Charlie Chaplin – almost hidden near the centre of this image – promoted liberty bonds, which for many Americans was the precursor to stock market speculation

The gold rush was irresistible, even to previously staid, conservative businessmen. “The market was enchanted,” says Blumenthal, “part of an affluent and exciting time that seemed likely to continue forever. Politicians, professors and businessmen proclaimed that this was a new era, where the old ups and downs no longer applied.”

## WARNING SIGNS

While the bubble continued to expand, no-one seemed to pay too much attention to the elephant in the room. Most of the stocks invested in by the average American were bought ‘on margin’ – that is, partly by borrowing from the brokers. In some cases, as much as 90 per cent of the purchase price was loaned. Should there be a sizeable crack in the market, the average stock investor had plenty to lose. Underneath the hype, it was a fragile house of cards.

Prior to the crash of late October 1929, prices had slipped a little the previous month. Not too much notice was taken. Experts saw a red-hot market being subject to a little ventilation as no bad thing. The sharper players took advantage of these lower prices. After all, following every previous blip over the past few years, the market had more than recovered its previous position.

Those six October days were far from a blip. They delivered a near-fatal blow to the US economy as a whole – and a definite fatal blow to millions of personal livelihoods. Industry found it difficult to trade, as belief in the concept of credit – and in the credibility of the banking system – had been shot to pieces. The

scramble for money to continue to operate and to pay wages was intense. Manufacturing was reduced as a result; within three years of the crash, production of the motor car, such a symbol of the good times of the 1920s, was around a quarter of what it had been.

Unemployment rose spectacularly too. Six months after the events of October 1929, the jobless total had more than doubled to 3.25 million. These were desperate times. "The descent came by stages," wrote historian Hugh Brogan. "The loss of one job; the search for another in the same line; the search, growing frantic, for work in any line; the first appearance at the bread-line, where, astonishingly, you met dozens of other honest men who had kept the rules, worked hard and were now as low as the professional bums."

The rural unemployed moved en masse to find work, whether in the drought-ridden dustbowls of Texas and Oklahoma heading west to find agricultural jobs in California or on plantations in the Deep South heading north to the industrialised cities. These times were just about economic uncertainty. The very fabric of American society was beginning to fray.

## DEEPENING DEPRESSION

The Wall Street Crash wasn't the cause of the Great Depression, but it did mark the beginning of it. It was the equivalent of a heart attack being suffered by someone with high blood pressure. The economy had a pre-existing condition, an underlying weakness. But its aftercare – as administered, or otherwise, by President Herbert Hoover – was insufficient.

The Republican President was reluctant for the government to step into the crisis, believing that a more laissez-faire stance would encourage businesses and banks to right the economy. His aloofness as a person didn't help his argument, and he was ridiculed for appearing not to care enough for his fellow citizens. Those who'd been hit hardest by the Great Depression and had their homes foreclosed were living in shanty towns, which the President's critics dubbed 'Hoovervilles'.

It came as no surprise that, at the presidential election of 1932, Hoover

**Scenes like this were common. Given the seeming infallibility of the stock market, there didn't seem to be any need to exercise caution**



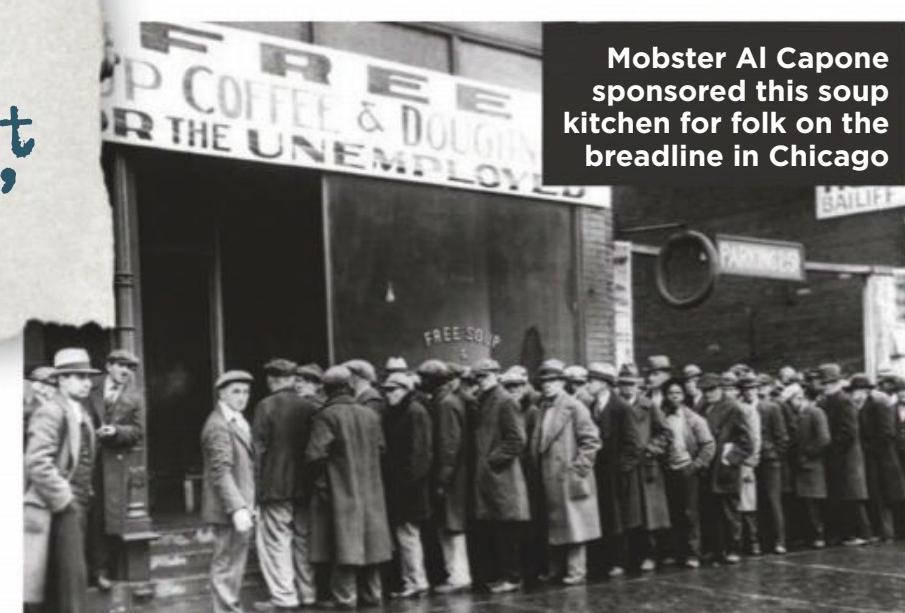
**"The Crash didn't cause the Great Depression, but it marked the start"**

was unceremoniously dumped from office, with his successor, the Democrat Franklin D Roosevelt, winning 57.4 per cent of the popular vote. The mandate of the landslide, coupled with large Democrat majorities in both houses of Congress, allowed for a brave tackling of the country's plight.

After Hoover's failure, the public clamour for the government to intervene was deafening. At Roosevelt's inauguration in March 1933, he sought to reassure and unite a broken population. "The people of the United States have not failed. In their need, they have registered a mandate that they want direct, vigorous action.

"Our greatest primary task is to put people to work. This is no unsolvable problem if we face it wisely and courageously. It can be accomplished in part by direct recruiting by the government itself, treating the task as we would treat the emergency of a war."

The effect was instant. "In a few minutes," Brogan also wrote, "Roosevelt did what had so wearingly eluded Hoover for four years: he gave back to his countrymen their hope and their energy. By the end of the week, half a million grateful letters had poured into the



**Mobster Al Capone sponsored this soup kitchen for folk on the breadline in Chicago**



**Those made homeless often ended up in shanty towns**

White House – first waters of a flood that was never to dry up."

## ROOSEVELT'S RESCUE

In his first 100 days in office, Roosevelt certainly kept his promises. That vigorous, direct action came in the form of 15 major laws aimed at creating jobs and rebooting industry, the economy and, symbolically, belief.

# COUNTING THE COST

THE WALL STREET CRASH IN NUMBERS

**57.4%**

The proportion of the popular vote Franklin D Roosevelt won in the 1932 presidential election over incumbent Herbert Hoover

**41.22**

The closing figure on the Dow-Jones Index on 8 July 1932. This was 90 per cent down on the figure of 381.2 on September 3 1929

**\$87 billion**

The value of the stock market in 1929, before the crash

**16 million**

The number of shares traded on Black Tuesday alone

**12.8%**

The size of the drop on the US financial market on Black Monday in 1929. It dropped a further 12% the following day – Black Tuesday

**20%**

By 1932, stocks were worth about 20 per cent of the value they had held in the summer of 1929

**24.9%**

The rate of unemployment in the US in November 1933, before Roosevelt's job creation schemes took hold

**47%**

The fall in US industrial production between 1929 and 1933

**2.5 million**

The number of Americans out of work by the end of 1929

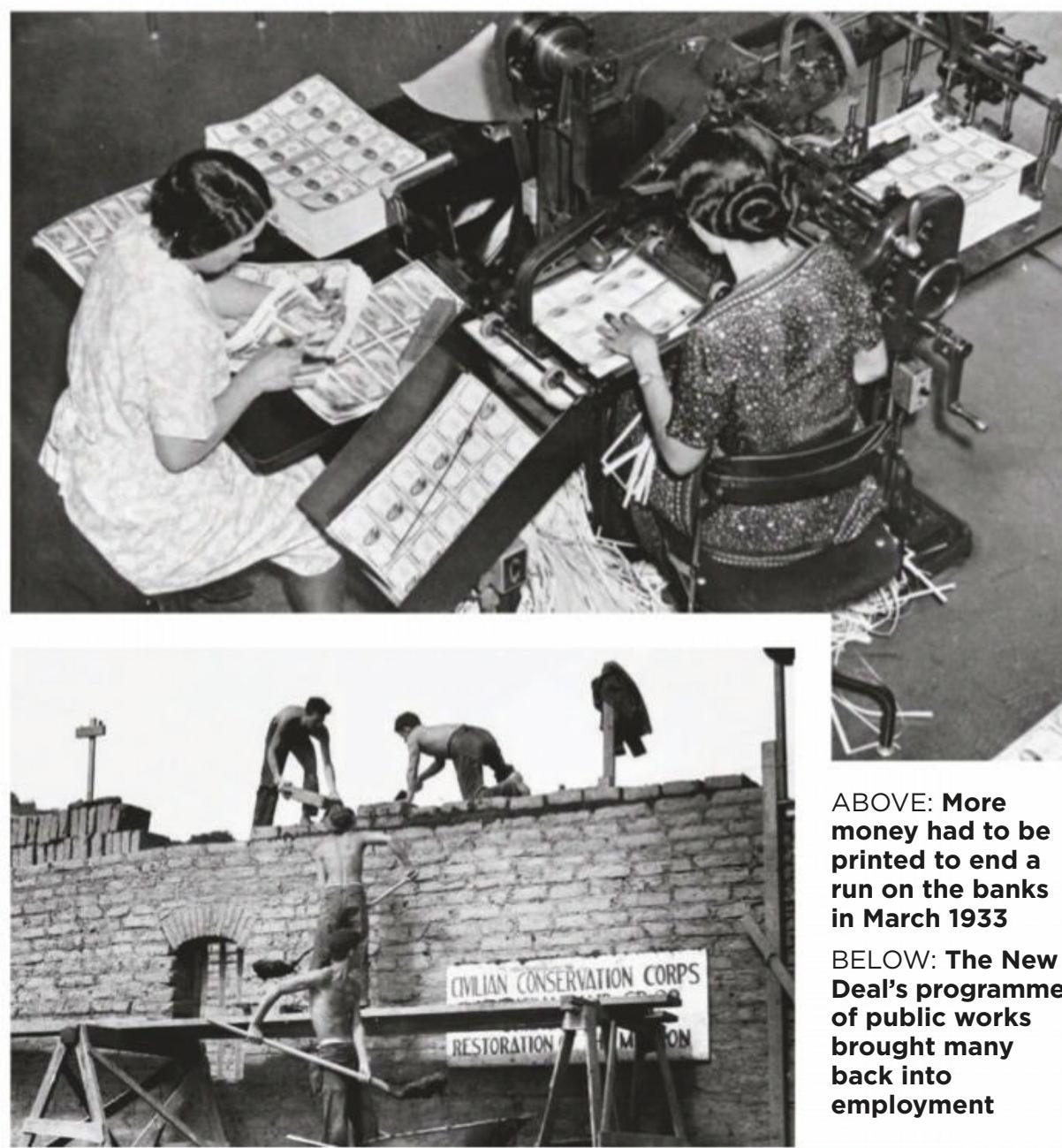
**~50%**

By 1933, nearly half of the US's banks had failed

**CLOSED**

**\$30,000,000,000**

The amount of stock value that had 'disappeared' by mid-November 1929



ABOVE: More money had to be printed to end a run on the banks in March 1933

BELOW: The New Deal's programme of public works brought many back into employment

The legislative strides he made were speedy and sizeable.

The Emergency Banking Act aimed to stabilise – and thus restore faith in – the banking system through the introduction of federal deposit insurance, while the Federal Emergency Relief Administration offered support for the poor in the form of blankets, soup kitchens and employment opportunities. Work was also offered to those signing up for the Civilian Conservation Corps, which placed the unemployed in six-month camps, working on conservation projects while earning \$30 a month. By the scheme's end in 1942, 2.5 million men had been employed by the corps. Further work was on offer through the Public Works Administration, set up to improve the country's infrastructure.

Roosevelt's programme – delivered under the New Deal banner – was revolutionary in the way it placed the federal government, previously largely invisible in everyday life, at the heart of the nation's recovery. The project to rebuild the US – both materially and psychologically – was an impressive one, yet the nation wasn't completely united behind the cause. Some Democrats still felt it didn't go as far

and as deep as it might, while many Republicans, echoing the stance previously taken by Hoover, felt it was an unwelcome and invasive repositioning of the role of big government.

Regardless of how energising the New Deal was to the nation, it didn't solve the Great Depression. Productivity failed to revive in quite the manner that Roosevelt hoped, while unemployment remained high throughout the 1930s. His success, though, measured by three further presidential election victories, was one of motivation and inspiration.

The Great Depression was ended by events out of the president's control. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, forcing the US to enter World War II, the economy belatedly rebounded. In order to supply troops overseas, productivity in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors expanded rapidly, while creating millions of jobs. The prosperous times would return. ☀

#### GET HOOKED

##### LISTEN



Alistair Cooke discusses the events of 1929 on an episode of *Letters from America* on BBC Radio 4  
[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00ydqj2](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00ydqj2)

## THE CRASH HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

### Understanding the global effect of October 1929

The Wall Street Crash didn't send ripples across other countries' economies: it had a tsunami-like effect, showing how economically interconnected the world had become.

Unlike the US, Britain hadn't enjoyed a prosperous, buoyant Twenties. The cost of the four years of World War I had dictated that. With New York increasingly seen as the global centre of finance, Britain's economy struggled to repair itself and unemployment remained high throughout the decade. When the Crash occurred, Britain tumbled into a depression that parliament – failing to enact the kind of New Deal-style recovery plan that ultimately revived American fortunes – couldn't prevent. By 1934, Britain began defaulting on war debts owed to the US.

Germany had defaulted on its war reparations two years earlier. Following the Wall Street Crash, the US had withdrawn capital from the country and, in attempting to achieve economic equilibrium, Chancellor Heinrich Brüning cut public expenditure, causing productivity to fall and unemployment to rise. The German banking system collapsed in 1931.

France had enjoyed a significantly more prosperous 1920s than either Britain or Germany. This was down to sizeable government investment in industry and infrastructure. In the early aftermath of the Crash, its economy appeared more resolute than those of its neighbours across the English Channel and to the immediate east. This didn't last long. The global recession caused a fall in demand for French exports and the country sank into economic turmoil, with a succession of brief governments unable to stymie the fall.

Across these three European countries, severely depressed economies gave rise to radicalised politics, most significantly in Germany where Adolf Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and established a one-party state that would violently reconstruct the face of Europe.



Hitler is welcomed in Nuremberg in 1933 as Germany's economic hero, though not yet the all-powerful Führer

BBC

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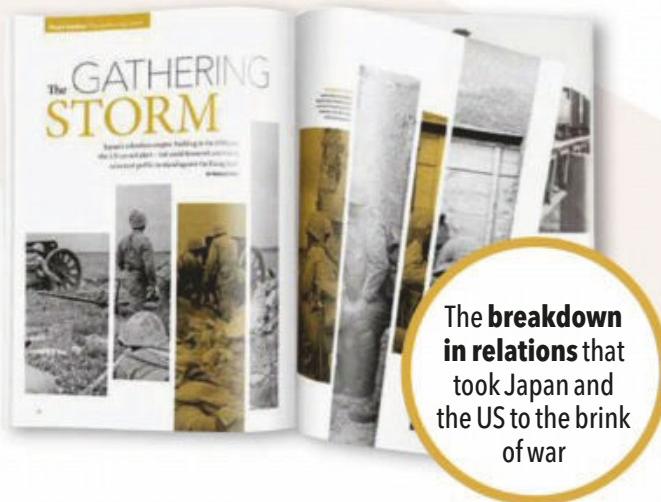
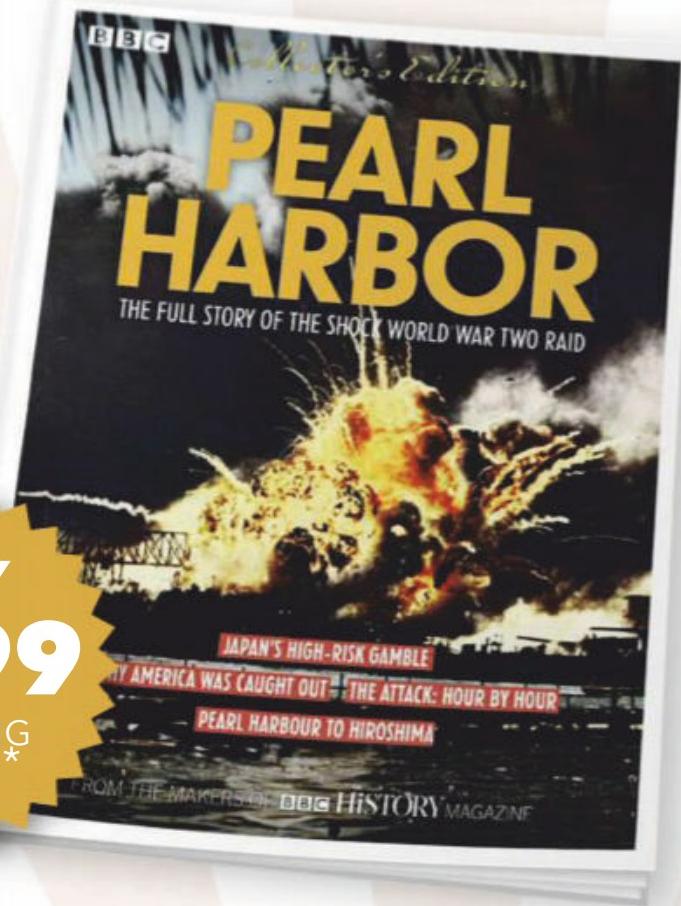
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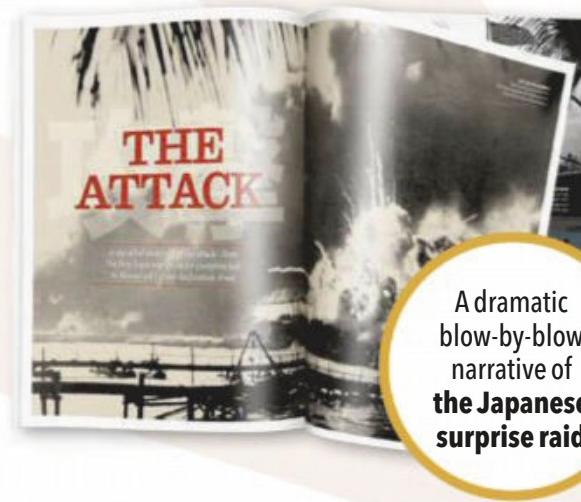
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# Q&A

## YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



### GREAT CRY AND LITTLE WOOL

Pope Sixtus V hoped to turn the Colosseum into a wool factory, but the plan was abandoned after his death in 1590



## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE COLOSSEUM AFTER THE ROMAN EMPIRE?



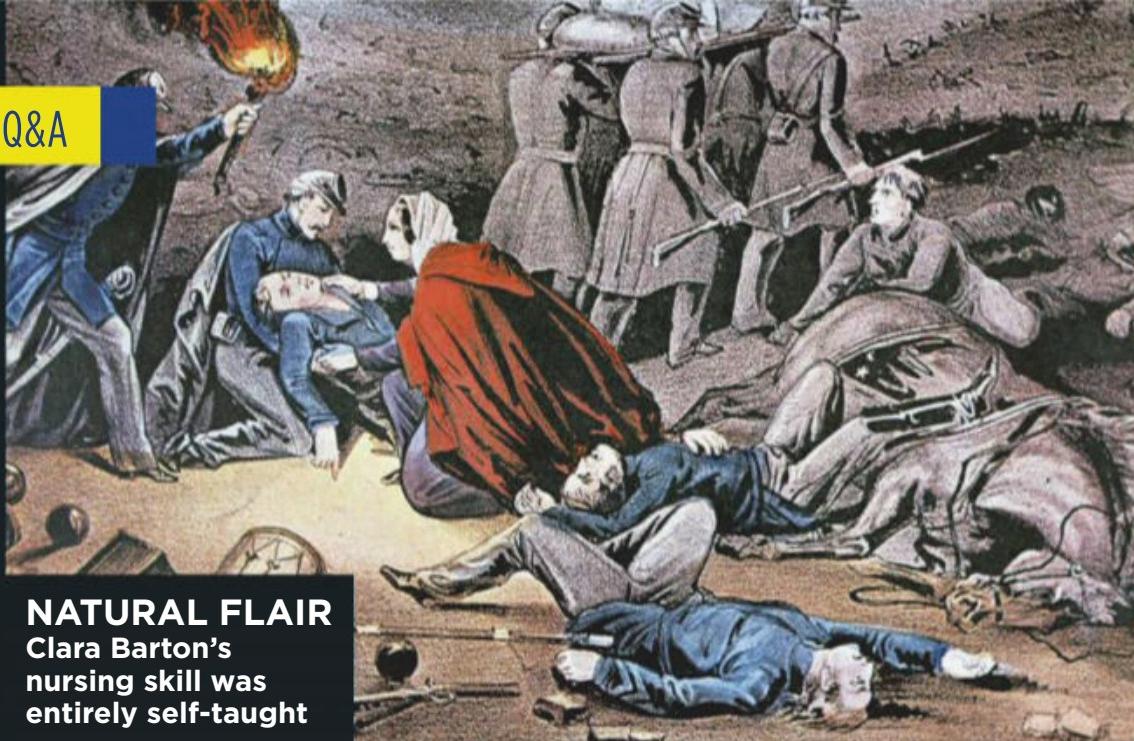
We know about the blood-and-gore entertainment, and we know that the Colosseum ruins still stand, attracting around seven million visitors a year. That leaves the gladiator-eating lion's share of two millennia in between.

Once the Roman Empire had broken apart and the gladiatorial games had ceased, the Flavian Amphitheatre, as the Colosseum was

officially named, fell into disrepair. Sections of the arena came to be converted into a chapel, a cemetery – rather fittingly given the thousands who died there – housing and workshops. In the 13th century, the powerful Frangipane family in Rome took over and fortified the Colosseum, using it as a castle in their war with some local rivals. But the structure suffered severe damage in

medieval times by lightning strikes, earthquakes and (most significantly) theft, as the rocks and marble were stripped for other construction projects in Rome. By the time conservation and restoration efforts began in earnest, nearly two thirds of the Colosseum had been pinched.





**NATURAL FLAIR**  
Clara Barton's nursing skill was entirely self-taught

## Who were the **pioneering nurses in the US?**

**Target** The Crimean War is regarded as the crucible in which professional nursing was forged. It was there that Florence Nightingale became the legendary 'Lady with the Lamp', and where Mary Seacole set up a hotel at her own expense to assist the troops. But within a few years came the American Civil War, and there was a high demand for American women to emulate these pioneer nurses.

Clara Barton did it all. She treated the wounded on the front lines – earning the nickname 'Angel of the Battlefield' – but also searched for missing men, distributed supplies, gathered medicines, and even recovered lost luggage. After the war, she founded the American Red Cross.

Dorothea Dix served as Superintendent of Army Nurses for the Union, and introduced a recruitment scheme that saw 3,000 women join up. Yet in her own opinion, her greatest contribution to healthcare had started before the war, as she tirelessly campaigned for reform to the treatment of the mentally ill.

This answer wouldn't be complete without mentioning Mary Edwards Walker, who changed the face of surgery by becoming the only woman to work as a surgeon in the American Civil War, and Bristol-born Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the US.

## WHERE DO NUMERALS COME FROM?

**Target** While Europe languished in the so-called Dark Ages, the scholars of the Middle East and Asia were making monumental strides. Indeed, by the 6th century mathematical geniuses in India had changed the very way the world counted through the development of the decimal numeral system. The 7th-century astronomer Brahmagupta is credited with the next breakthrough – giving zero, or shunya, a value so it could be written alongside the other nine digits. This system spread, with different civilisations adopting their own symbols until the ones we are so familiar with are thought to have been devised in the North African area of the Arab Empire. It took another three centuries for these Hindu-Arabic numerals to come to Europe, via the works of the great mathematician Al-Khwarizmi, and for a few more to be established. Not everyone warmed to them – in 1299, Florence banned them in the belief that they were too easy to forge.



## WHY IS IT CALLED TOASTING?



It had nothing to do with the Vikings lifting a horn to the gods before smashing them together in order to share out the liquid in a canny method of avoiding being

poisoned. Instead, the origin of the term 'toasting' does actually involve toast. The saying appears in the 16th and 17th centuries, owing to piece of toast being placed in wine to soak up the acidity. This was said to improve the wine's flavour, especially if the toast was spiced, and also used up the last of the loaf nicely.

**CLINK!**  
Toast for good health, but never with water – unless you wish someone ill

# Why were there so many motte-and-bailey castles in Britain?



The Normans would have had a tougher time of securing their position after the Conquest were it not for motte and baileys. These castles – a raised mound (the motte) with a tower on top, and a ditched enclosure (the bailey) – were relatively quick and inexpensive to build, yet devilishly tricky to capture. Around 1,000 were

raised during the Norman era, starting with William the Conqueror, who brought the idea from northern Europe. According to his chaplain, William of Poitiers, it took only 80 days to build the castle at Dover. The Normans had security and speed on their side as they delved deeper into England and Wales.



**KING OF THE HILL**  
A mass of mottes gave the Normans a commanding position over England



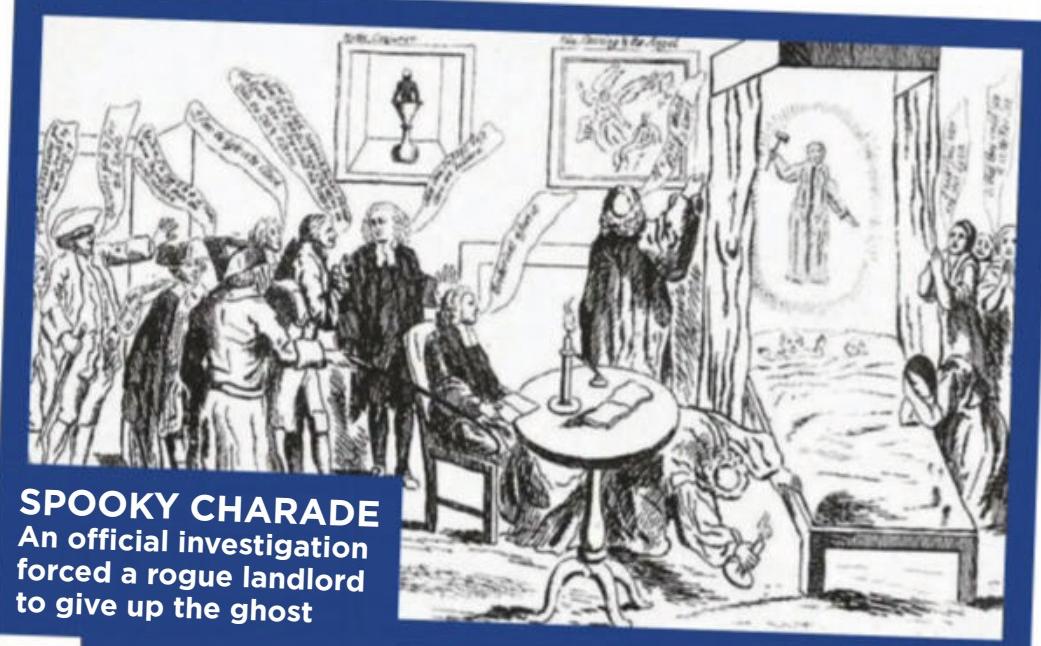
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**SPILLING THE BEANS**  
Legend has it that a goat herder in 9th-century Ethiopia named Kaldi found his goats one day more excitable and energetic than usual, supposedly after eating a certain crop. He had just made a monumental discovery: the effects of coffee.

## WHEN DID THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS FIRST PLAY?



Now hailed as the ultimate exhibition team for their skills and antics, the Harlem Globetrotters first took to the court to exhibit something else: that not only white men could play professional basketball.

Sports promoter Abe Saperstein bought the all-black amateur team and named them after the historically African-American district in New York – despite them being from Chicago – and booked their first game for 7 January 1927. So launched an extraordinary first season, with the Globetrotters winning 101 of 117 games. They wouldn't actually play in Harlem, though, until 1968.



**SPOOKY CHARADE**  
An official investigation forced a rogue landlord to give up the ghost

## WHAT, OR WHO, WAS SCRATCHING FANNY?



Fear not, it's not as rude as it sounds. Scratching Fanny was an 18th-century ghost – and fear not again, the story isn't all that spooky.

It all began when a woman named Fanny witnessed some supposedly supernatural knocking and scratching in her house on Cock Lane in London. The theory was that the noises were made by the ghost of her sister, who also happened to be the former wife of Fanny's lover William Kent. When Fanny herself died, the ghostly goings-on intensified and the theory changed. It was now claimed that Scratching Fanny had come to accuse Kent of her murder, and she would appear in the presence of the young daughter of the house's landlord, Richard Parsons. Incidentally, Parsons was strapped for cash and had argued with Kent. For several months in 1762, Parsons held numerous – lucrative and highly popular – séances at the house, during which Scratching Fanny knocked and scratched out answers to questions put to her. Oddly enough, the eerie noises ceased when his daughter was told to keep her hands in clear view.

Yet so many believed the story that a committee was established to investigate. The whole thing was quickly revealed to be a hoax and Scratching Fanny never bothered Cock Lane again.



**SLAM DUNK**  
The Globetrotters' longest winning streak, 8,829 games, lasted for 24 years – from 1971-95



# Could women be barred from pubs?

**Q** Until 1982, it was legal for the proprietor of a British pub to refuse service to a woman – and not because she'd had enough already, but because she was a woman. And if a pub wasn't actually men-only, female customers typically couldn't go in alone and they had to sit in the snug, a separate room with frosted windows, to wait to be served or for drinks to be brought to them by their male companions.

The Industrial Revolution had changed the dynamic of the pub, which used to be generally more inclusive. But with scores of working men now pouring out of the factories, mills and mines, it was deemed necessary for them to have their own watering holes. This established such an unwelcoming precedent that the sight of a woman standing at a bar usually came to mean she was a prostitute.

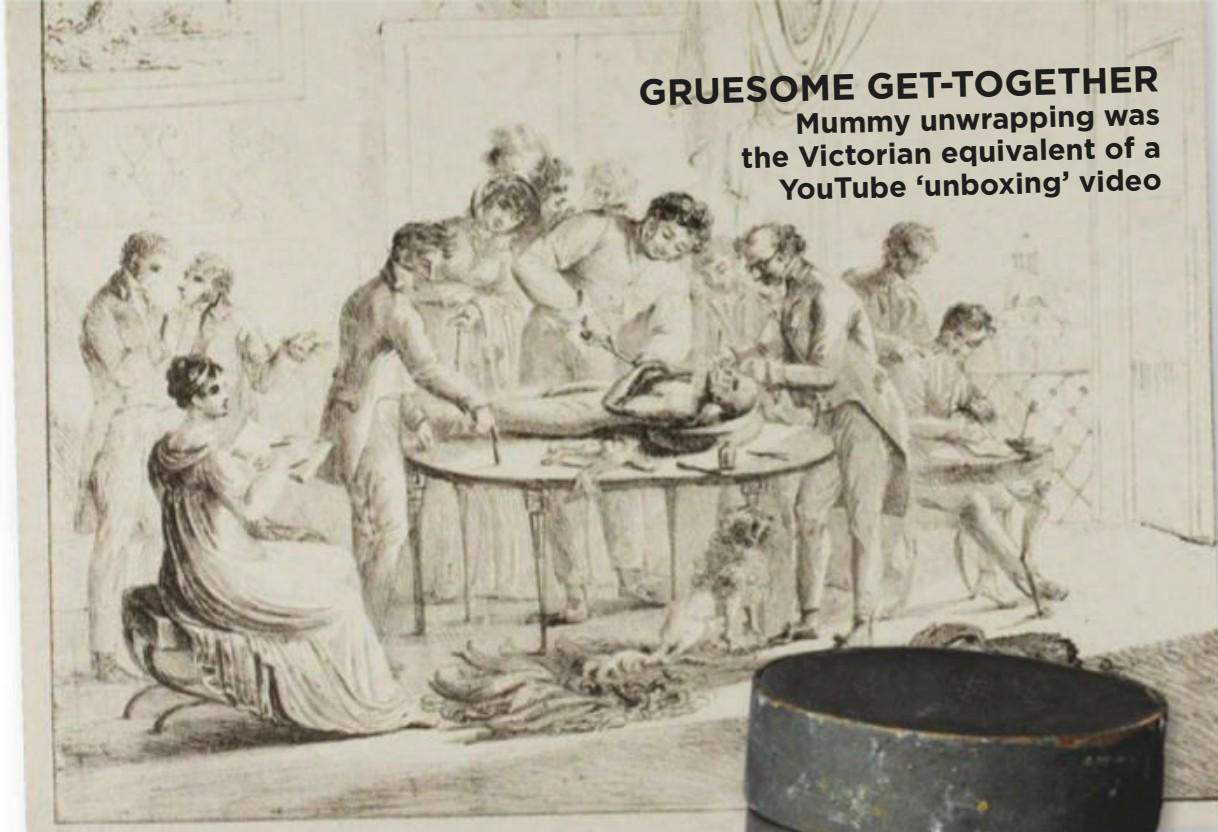
The landmark change wouldn't come until the early 1980s. A solicitor named Tess Gill and journalist, Anna Coote, were banned from El Vino on Fleet Street, London, just for standing up alongside their male colleagues, rather than sitting at the back. They decided enough was enough, took their case to the Court of Appeal and won, calling time on the sexist practice.

**SCENE OF THE CRIME**  
Anna Coote (left) and Tess Gill returned to El Vino after winning their case



**2,669**  
*The number of cannon shots fired by HMS Victory during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.*

**HAT TRICK**  
Comedian and magician Tommy Cooper was famed for always wearing a fez



**GRUESOME GET-TOGETHER**  
Mummy unwrapping was the Victorian equivalent of a YouTube 'unboxing' video

## WHAT WERE EGYPTIAN MUMMIES USED FOR?

**Q** When Egyptomania struck Europe and the US in the 19th century, museums were filled with ancient artefacts, tourists flocked to the pyramids, and everyone, it seemed, wanted their mummy. Parties were held where enthralled guests watched as the mummified remains of Ancient Egyptians would be unwrapped and examined. It was hardly good archaeological practice, but, man, what a party!

Luckily, mummies were ten-a-penny so they had a wide variety of



other uses. They made for conversation-starting displays in the living rooms of the wealthy – and if the whole body wasn't available, a hand or head would do – or as medicines (above), ground up and rubbed on the skin or mixed into health tonics.

Such mistreatment had been going on long before the Victorians. Mummies were turned into the paint pigments of the Pre-Raphaelites, fertiliser for the fields and, at a pinch, firewood.

## WHO INVENTED THE FEZ?

**Q** Although sharing a name with the Moroccan city, the fez didn't originate in Fez. It's believed that this is where the red dye that gave the cylindrical, flat-topped hat its iconic colour was produced. And while commonly associated with North Africa – and the Ottoman Empire – it may have been worn first in Ancient Greece or by those living in the Balkans during the Byzantine era.

The fez, or tarboosh, has had a surprisingly complicated political history for a hat. Under the Ottomans, it became a symbol of modernisation – introduced in the 19th century to replace the turban in the military. Soon, a law made men wear one. Then, in 1925, it was banned as part of reforms to modernise Turkey. Suddenly, men could be arrested for sporting a fez.

# WHO WAS FIRST TO ENTER ELLIS ISLAND?



In 62 years of operation, some 12 million people went through Ellis Island, the largest immigration processing centre in the US, in the hope of building a new life in the land of opportunity.

It was on 1 January 1892 that the first name was recorded: Annie Moore. The 17-year old had come from County Cork, Ireland, with her two brothers to meet their parents. They spent Christmas

aboard the steamship SS *Nevada* before sighting the Statue of Liberty with the New Year.

According to eyewitnesses, a German man was almost the first to disembark, but one of the ship's crew stopped him and called for "Ladies first", so Annie stepped onto the gangplank and into history. To mark the occasion, she received a \$10 gold piece from the Ellis Island official.



**LOOKS GOOD ON PAPER**  
Immigrants arrive c1900, each carrying their paper entry numbers

## What happened to Henry VIII's illegitimate children?



His first two wives famously couldn't give him the male heir he so craved, but Henry VIII had no problem siring boys out of wedlock. It has been rumoured that he had as many as seven illegitimate children, five of them male. Their true parentage is still debated for all except Henry Fitzroy, born to Elizabeth 'Bessie' Blount in around June 1519.

Henry had the boy christened, with Cardinal Wolsey as godfather. Then, when a bona fide heir still didn't arrive, he considered having the younger Henry legitimised, heaping the boy with titles and honours, including two dukedoms. Yet it came to nothing, as Fitzroy died in 1536, aged around 17.

## NO TEACHER'S PET

The lamb of the rhyme follows a girl to school - and is turfed out by her teacher



## Did Mary actually have a **little lamb**?



**DID YOU KNOW? LET IT GO**  
When the Swedish king Gustavus Adolphus died in battle in 1632, his wife Maria Eleonora fell into inconsolable grief. She refused to let the body be buried for more than a year, and kept his heart in a golden casket, which hung above her bed.

To those of ewe who have herd the nursery rhyme, you wool know (sorry, enough baa-d puns) the little lamb with a fleece as white as snow followed Mary to school one day. That actually happened. When Mary Sawyer, a girl from Massachusetts, nursed an abandoned lamb back to health, it became devoted to her.

She took the lamb to school, where the sight caught the attention of a schoolmate, John Roulstone. He wrote the first version of the famous poem, before it was added to and published, in 1830, by Sarah Josepha Hale. *Mary had a Little Lamb* became a children's favourite, and Thomas Edison chose it to be the first audio ever recorded when he tested his phonograph in 1877.



## MORE Q&A ONLINE

Visit [www.historyextra.com](http://www.historyextra.com) for more astounding history mysteries.



**NOT-SO-SECRET IDENTITY**  
Henry's name 'Fitzroy' means 'son of the King'

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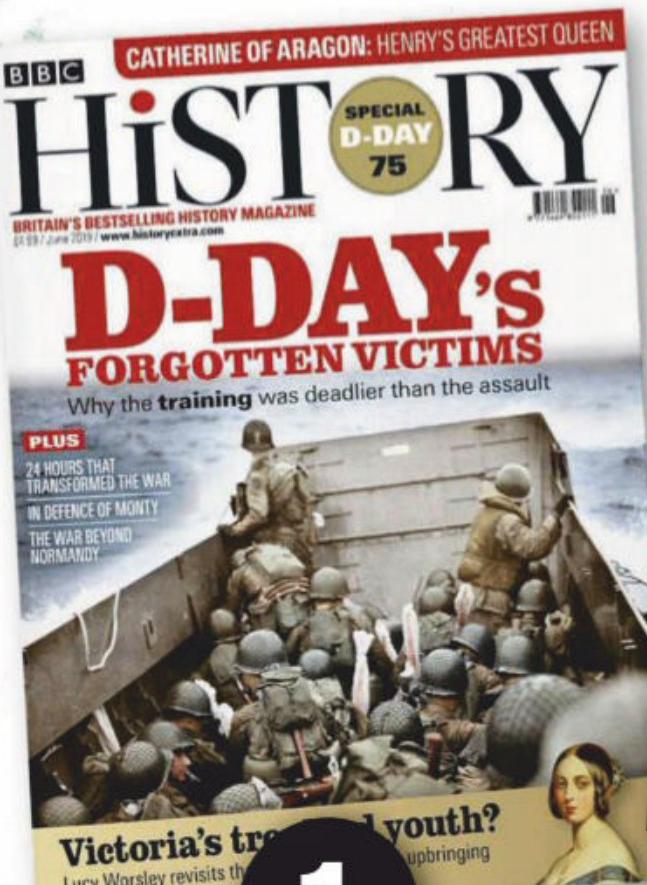


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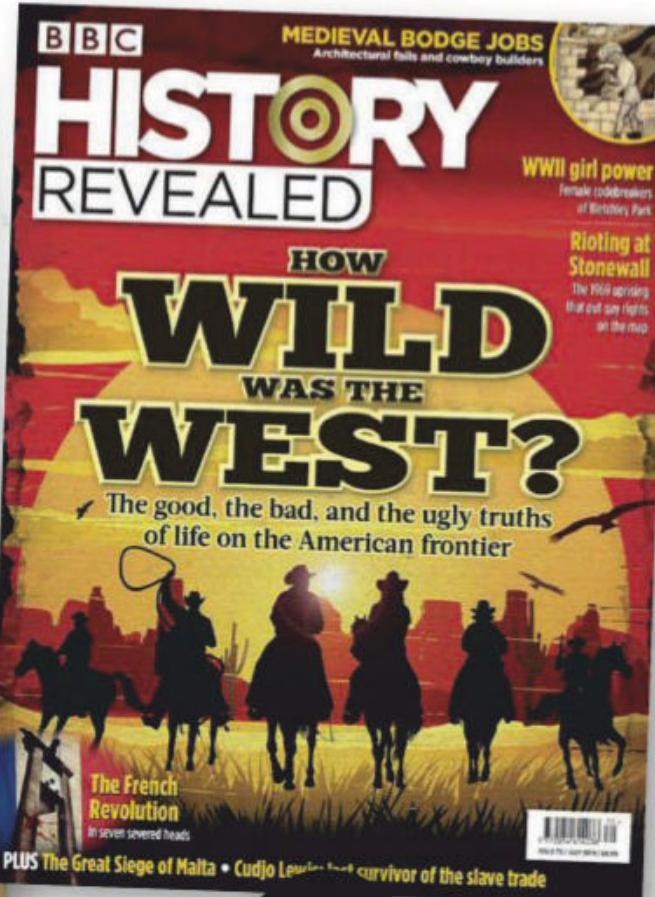
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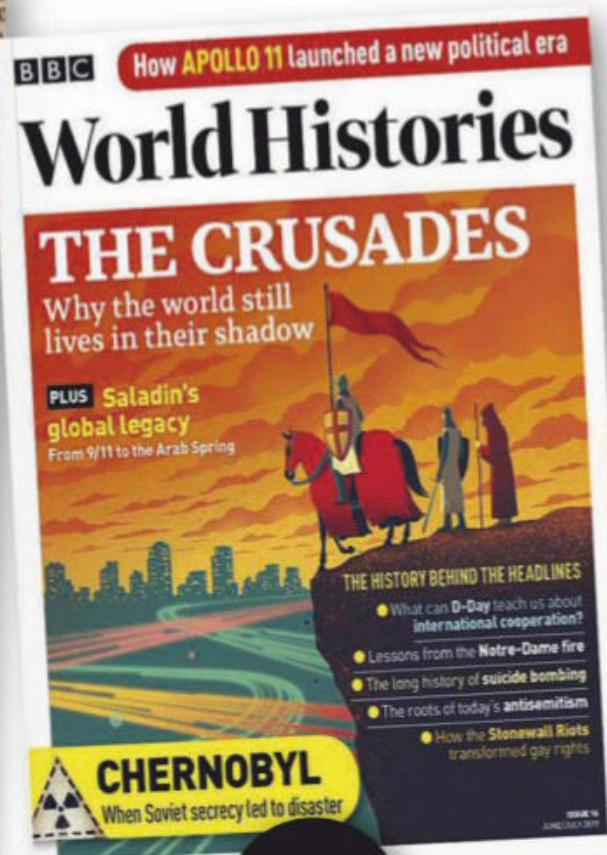
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# ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



Brighton Pavilion's Indian inspiration can be easily seen in its domes and minarets



The treasures within include intricate furniture and this exquisite candelabra

## EXHIBITION

### A Prince's Treasure

21 September until Autumn 2021, Brighton Pavilion  
[brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion](http://brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion)

The Royal Pavilion at Brighton was built in 1823 as the favourite seaside retreat of the Prince Regent, later George IV. While Buckingham Palace is undergoing maintenance, more than 120 decorative works originally made for the Prince will be displayed in their original Pavilion home - allowing visitors to see how the building's interior once looked. A lover of the exotic, the Prince envisioned architecture inspired by India, with Chinese furnishings and decoration. Many of the objects in the exhibition have never been on public display before.

## WHAT'S ON

How magic has been used to hurt and heal .....p84



## TV & RADIO

The hottest new dramas and documentaries...p86



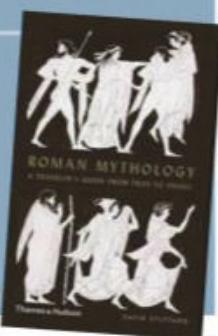
## BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Churchill War Rooms...p88



## BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases....p90





**REOPENING**

## New bridge at Tintagel Castle

Tintagel Castle, Cornwall  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tintagel-castle](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/tintagel-castle)

Steeped in Arthurian legend, the Cornish castle of Tintagel has reopened following the completion of its new footbridge – recreating the original crossing from the castle outcrop to the mainland. The bridge recreates the route that the castle's medieval inhabitants would have taken across a natural land bridge, which disappeared between the 14th and 17th centuries.





## EXHIBITION

**Magic**

19 October to 19 April, Bristol Museum, [www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/magic](http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/magic)

For centuries, magic has been a part of many cultures and people's lives. This exhibition explores how magic has been used throughout history to both hurt and heal, and examines those who practiced it. With a focus on everyday objects, the exhibition will explore those items people have traditionally felt possess some sort of magical power – from Ancient Egyptian amulets, to Mexican charms said to protect the wearer from harm.



ABOVE: 'The Palm Foretells' by William Roberts, 1933

LEFT: Among the myriad, mysteriously magical objects are this dung beetle and an amulet of Egyptian goddess Taweret

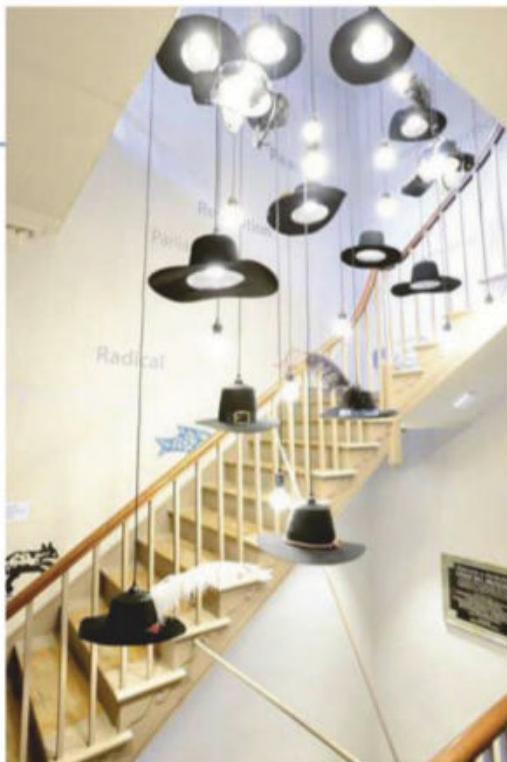


## FESTIVAL

### BBC History Magazine's History Weekend: Winchester

1-3 November, Winchester, [www.historyextra.com/events](http://www.historyextra.com/events)

*BBC History Magazine's second History Weekend of 2019 arrives in Winchester. Lucy Worsley will be uncovering the life of novelist Jane Austen – whose grave you can visit in nearby Winchester Cathedral. Other speakers include Max Hastings, Tracy Borman (above), Janina Ramirez and Dan Jones. Save 10% on tickets at [bbchistory.seetickets.com/go/save10](http://bbchistory.seetickets.com/go/save10).*



## EXHIBITION

# The World Turned Upside Down

Opening 6 September, National Civil War Centre, Newark, [www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/exhibitions](http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/exhibitions)

**The exhibition takes its name from a 17th century ballad decrying Oliver Cromwell's attempts to 'cancel' Christmas**

The British Civil Wars did much more than just remove the British monarchy – religion, politics, culture and science all went through significant upheaval. This exhibition explores how British society was turned on its head and examines what it would have been like to live through this turbulent time, which saw Charles I beheaded and the balance of power interrupted.

## EXHIBITION

# The Luxury of Time: Clocks from 1550-1750

4 October to 26 January 2020, National Museum of Scotland, [www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/the-luxury-of-time](http://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/exhibitions/national-museum-of-scotland/the-luxury-of-time)

The 17th century was a golden age for British clockmaking – as well as practical devices that allowed you to track the time, instruments such as the examples shown here came to be seen as status symbols. This free exhibition will take a closer look at intricately designed timepieces, including those by the royal clockmaker to James I & VI. Visitors can chart the history of the clockmaking industry and discover how time was measured before their invention.



## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- An Illustrated Construction of Tower Bridge – Uncover the weird and wonderful designs submitted for Tower Bridge, as well as how it was constructed.  
Tower Bridge, 7 November, [bit.ly/1rntOzp](http://bit.ly/1rntOzp)
- Pre-Raphaelite Sisters – This major exhibition focuses on the untold women of Pre-Raphaelite art, including Evelyn de Morgan and Elizabeth Siddal.  
National Portrait Gallery, 17 October to 26 January, [bit.ly/2IxJrjB](http://bit.ly/2IxJrjB)



Much of the Georgian theatre experience is alien to our own

# TV AND RADIO

The hottest documentaries, podcasts and period dramas



ONE  
TO  
WATCH

**Shaun Greenhalgh created forgeries that fooled art experts for 17 years**

## PAST MASTER

### Handmade In Bolton

BBC Four, scheduled for October

It's a measure of his skill as a craftsman that Scotland Yard once rated Shaun Greenhalgh as perhaps "the most diverse" forger the authorities had ever encountered. Then came a reckoning when, following efforts to pass off 'Assyrian reliefs' as real, Greenhalgh was imprisoned,

Today, a reformed Greenhalgh, working from his Bolton workshop, uses his specialist skills to explore the techniques employed by our forebears. In a new series, he's joined in these efforts by Janina Ramirez, who told us of Greenhalgh: "What he can make and how

he creates is almost magical." The duo set out to recreate a selection of precious artefacts. It's not easy work.

"In one episode Shaun had sourced a hugely rare piece of clear crystal and began to work it on a lathe," says Ramirez. "However, there was a hairline crack and as he carved into the piece it shattered in his hands! It really gave me a sense of both how remarkable it is that ancient artworks were made in the first place, and that we still have the privilege to visit them in galleries and museums."



**Art and cultural historian Janina Ramirez joins Greenhalgh in this series**



## Mired in Mystery

### The Secret History of GCHQ

Radio 4, scheduled for Monday 21 October

Based at 'The Doughnut' in Cheltenham's suburbs, the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ, above) is responsible for providing signals intelligence to the authorities and also overseeing the security of the UK's own communications.

It's also, as this two-part documentary presented by BBC security correspondent Gordon Corera reveals, an organisation with a rich history. This began a century ago, in 1919, with the formation of the Government Code and Cypher School and encompasses the breaking of German Enigma codes at Bletchley Park.

## LEGAL HISTORY

### Catching Britain's Killers: The Crimes That Changed Us

BBC Two, scheduled for October

In 1986 in Enderby, Leicestershire, a teenager was brutally murdered, a case that had chilling similarities to an earlier killing in nearby Narborough. As this three-part series looking at murder cases that left a mark on the wider criminal justice system explores, the killer, Colin Pitchfork, would become the first murderer convicted as a result of DNA fingerprinting. The series also looks at how the practice of double jeopardy was reformed and why, in the 1970s, suspects were granted more rights.

## SUPREME RULER

### Catherine The Great

Sky Atlantic, scheduled for Thursday 3 October

After taking power by toppling her own husband, Peter III, in 1762, Catherine the Great ruled Russia until her death in 1796. As empress, she presided over what's seen as a golden age of territorial expansion and the flowering of the Russian enlightenment.

Fertile territory then for a lavish new drama, which stars Dame Helen Mirren – whose previous notable turns as royalty include an Oscar-winning performance as Elizabeth II in *The Queen* – as Catherine. At the centre of events in this telling lies Catherine's relationship with Grigory Potemkin (Jason Clarke), her political soulmate and lover.

Helen Mirren makes a royal return as the titular Empress of Russia



## IN-DEPTH STORIES

### Titanic: Stories From The Deep

Yesterday, October

Given the difficulties of travelling down to the wreck of RMS *Titanic*, which lies at a depth of around 12,500ft, it's little wonder that only a precious few items have been recovered from the great liner. As a new series reveals, each of these artefacts has a story attached to it – both in terms of its recovery, and links to both passengers and those alive today. Presented by Victor Garber, the Hollywood actor who played Thomas Andrews in James Cameron's *Titanic*.



Not all of the retrieved artefacts are nautical; the more unusual finds include a Valentine's card



## TRUTH AND LIES

### Ian Hislop's Fake News: A True History

BBC Four, scheduled for October

Unreliable reporting is nothing new – so discovers *Private Eye* editor Ian Hislop in his latest documentary for the BBC. Among the stories Hislop explores is the tale of how, in 1835, in local paper *The Sun*, New Yorkers were gripped by reports of flying man-bats seen on the Moon through the world's most powerful telescope. A harmless enough diversion, perhaps, but *The Sun* represented a new kind of sensationalist tabloid. Later, the yellow journalism-driven competition between such papers came to be blamed for starting a conflict: the Spanish-American War of 1898.

## ► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- As its name suggests, *Photos That Changed The World* (History, Monday 21 October) focuses on landmark images such as Nelson Mandela's "long walk to freedom".
- *Tunnel 29* (Radio 4, Monday 21 October) is a 10-part series that tells the remarkable story of a tunnel dug from the west into East Berlin.



# **BRITAIN'S TREASURES...**

# **CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS**

**London**

# Beneath the bustling streets of Britain's capital city lies a secret command centre from which plans for Allied victory in World War II were formed

**GETTING THERE:**  
The museum is in central London, underneath Her Majesty's Treasury. The nearest tube stations are Westminster and St James's Park.



## **OPENING TIMES AND PRICES:**

**OPENING TIMES**  
Open every day, 9.30am to 6pm  
(1 July-31 August, open until 7pm).  
Closed 24-26 December. It's  
recommended to buy tickets online  
in advance and you are given a  
timed entry slot. Adult £22, children  
£11. Members of IWM get in for  
free and do not need to book.

**FIND OUT MORE:**  
[www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms](http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/churchill-war-rooms)

**H**idden beneath the streets of Westminster in London is a secret underground network of rooms that played a major role in the Allied war effort. While ordinary citizens went about their business on the streets above, below them military strategists, government ministers and Winston Churchill himself were plotting the Allied route to victory, relatively protected from the threat of exploding bombs.

The need for a safe place in which the British War Cabinet could meet in case of emergency had been identified in 1936, following research by the Air Ministry into the devastation that

World War I had inflicted  
on London.

In the summer of 1938, as the threat of war crept closer, a decision was taken to create a temporary government centre for emergency usage. That place turned out to be the basement of the New Public Offices (now the Treasury) which was specially adapted for their new role as functional war rooms, with quick access for senior military figures and safety provisions such as sandbags and solid wooden doors. It was hoped that by keeping the government's emergency base in London itself would reassure civilians that leaders

had remained in the city during a crisis, rather than abandoning them for safety elsewhere.

The rooms became operational just days before Hitler invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. Two days later, Britain declared war on Germany.

# GONE TO GROUND

Neville Chamberlain used the facility just once, but it left a much greater impression on his successor, Winston Churchill. On entering for the first time as prime minister, in May 1940, Churchill is said to have declared: “This is a room from which I will direct the war.”



## WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



### THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition area houses a museum dedicated to the life of Winston Churchill, with many of his personal items on display, as well as the flag draped on his coffin.



### HITLER CARICATURE

A caricature of Adolf Hitler can be seen on a map in the Chiefs of Staff Conference Room, though no one is sure when this piece of graffiti first appeared.



### CHURCHILL'S BEDROOM

An office-bedroom was made up for Churchill (as was a bedroom for his wife), although he is only known to have slept here a handful of times.



### TRANSATLANTIC TELEPHONE ROOM

The cupboard disguised as a lavatory concealed a direct phone link to the US President.



### THE MAP ROOM

This room was the nerve centre of the complex, where strategies were devised. A huge convoy map dominates one end, covered in pinholes which once represented the position of a convoy.

## “The War Cabinet met here 115 times during WWII”

The War Cabinet met here 115 times during World War II, mainly during the Blitz and, later, V-weapon attacks. In October 1940, Blitz fear led to the complex being reinforced with slabs of concrete up to three metres thick, providing some peace of mind, but even then the complex was in danger. Any bomb larger than 227kg would have been powerful enough to destroy it.

Subterranean living could be difficult – staff had to stand under sun lamps to get a daily dose of ‘sunlight’, and one woman nearly went blind after she forgot to wear goggles for a session. Weather indicator boards were used to keep those underground apprised of the weather outside, with ‘windy’ often used during heavy raids.

The Map Room – the bunker’s intelligence hub – was in use 24 hours a day, staffed by members of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF. Daily intelligence was analysed and delivered from here to the King and the Prime Minister. But intel of a more sensitive nature was dealt with in what appeared to be Churchill’s personal toilet.

The perfidious privy’s lavatory-style lock was a delicate ruse – behind the otherwise unsecured door was actually a small storeroom, from which Churchill could speak to US President Franklin D Roosevelt in private, via a secure radio-telephone link. Their first call in what was officially the Transatlantic Telephone Room took place on 15

July 1943. Accommodation was also created for Churchill and his family and the prime minister made four broadcasts from his underground bedroom.

After the war, the rooms were left exactly as they were. As early as 1948, the question of public access to these historic rooms was raised, but the confidentiality of the work carried out there caused government concern. This didn’t stop visitation requests pouring in, so occasionally by request, small groups were allowed in. The War Rooms were finally opened to the public in 1984.

Highlights of a visit include Churchill’s Cabinet Room chair, gouged with anxious scratch marks, and the phone he used to speak to the US president. ◎

### WHY NOT VISIT...

More historical sites in London

#### WESTMINSTER ABBEY

For more than a millennium, Westminster Abbey has been at the heart of Britain’s religious story – hosting coronations as well as royal weddings and funerals.

[www.westminsterabbey.org](http://www.westminsterabbey.org)

#### FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

The Lady with the Lamp is celebrated at this museum, which examines her life and nursing legacy.

[www.florence-nightingale.co.uk](http://www.florence-nightingale.co.uk)

#### BANQUETING HOUSE

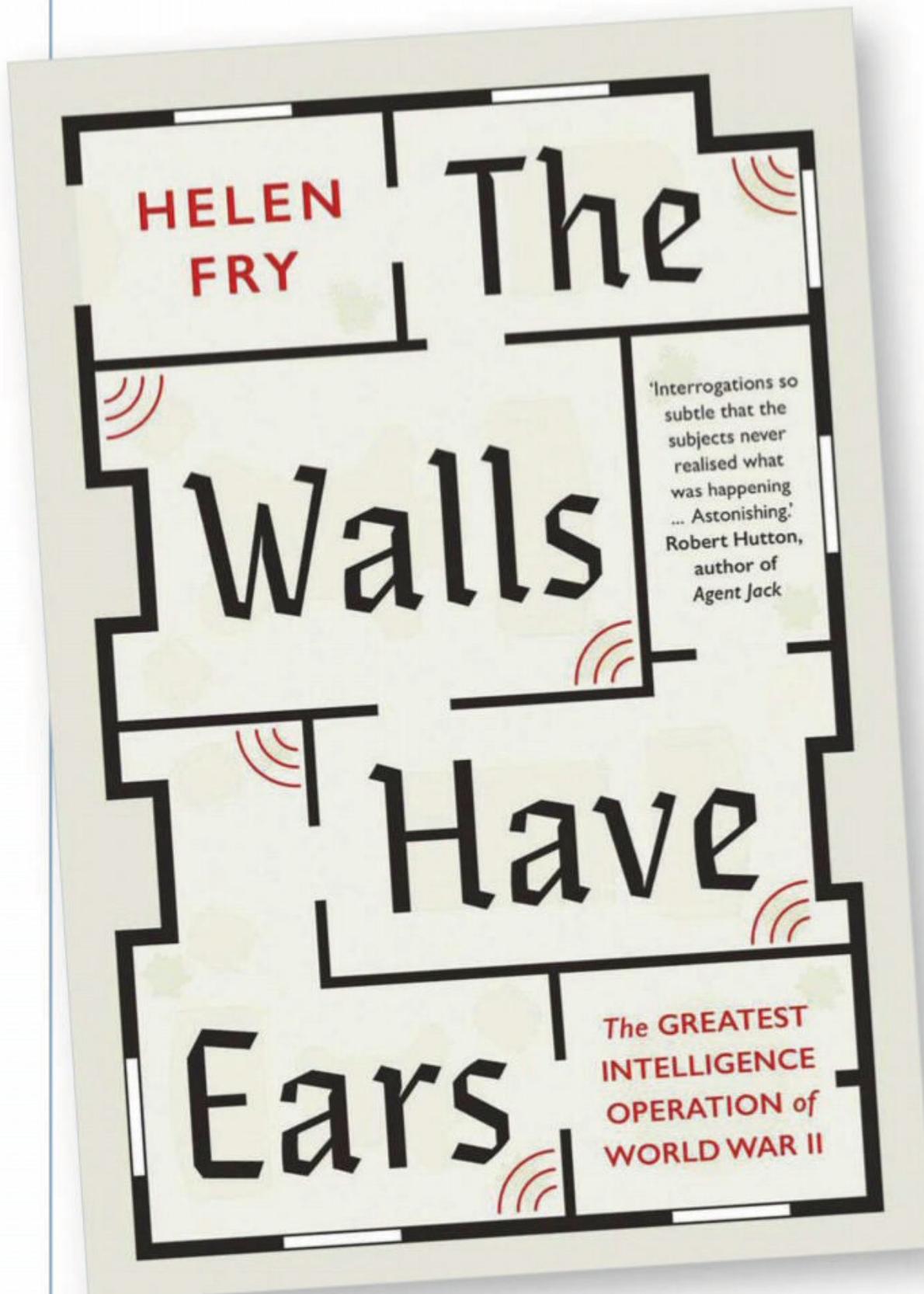
The only remaining part of the Palace of Whitehall, this grand hall has a magnificent Rubens ceiling and was also the site of Charles I’s execution.

[www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house](http://www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house)

# BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

**BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH**



**“That the project remained undiscovered for decades after the war ended makes the episode all the more remarkable”**

COURTESY OF DR HELEN FRY X4

## The Walls Have Ears The Greatest Intelligence Operation of World War II

By Helen Fry

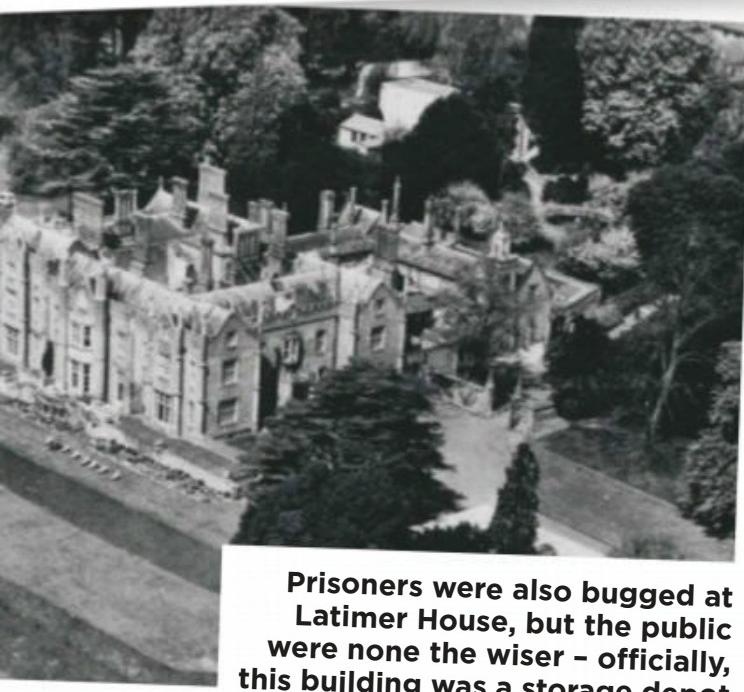
Yale, £18.99, hardback, 320 pages

As covert intelligence techniques go, ‘ply them with expensive food and alcohol and secretly record their conversations’ certainly sounds like it might work. The Allied ‘secret listeners’ campaign, which essentially did just that, ran throughout World War II and led to thousands of German prisoners being persuaded to yield their deepest secrets – including new technology and the latest battle plans. Helen Fry’s latest book tells this extraordinary story with the help of new archive material and interviews with some of the people involved. The fact that the project remained undiscovered for decades after the war ended makes the episode all the more remarkable.

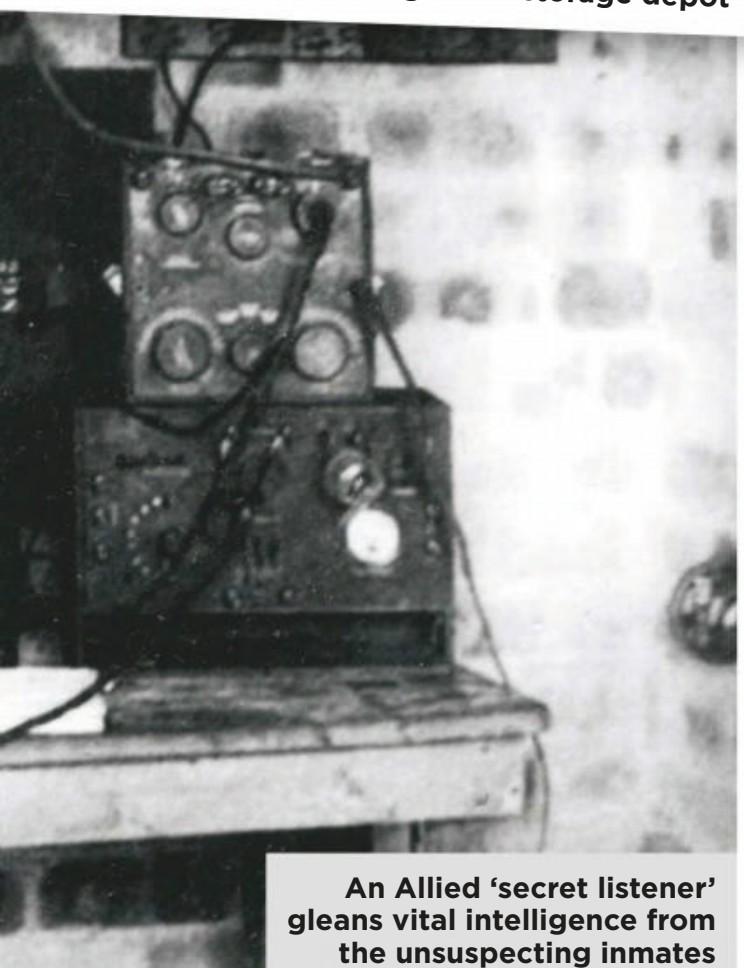




Captive German generals relax in the grounds of Trent Park in North London, unaware that they are under surveillance



Prisoners were also bugged at Latimer House, but the public were none the wiser – officially, this building was a storage depot



An Allied 'secret listener' gleans vital intelligence from the unsuspecting inmates

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**Helen Fry** sheds light on the almost unknown WWII intelligence operation that may have been as important to the Allies as the cracking of the Enigma code

### Your new book explores an extraordinary World War II intelligence operation. What did the operation involve?

Much of it was secretly listening into the conversations of German prisoners by hiding tiny microphones in the light fittings and fireplaces of their rooms. More than 10,000 German prisoners of war were bugged across the conflict at three special sites, including nearly a hundred of Hitler's top commanders and generals after their capture.

Clever techniques were used to make sure the prisoners relaxed, such as befriending them with alcohol and food in London's exclusive restaurants. Favourite venues included the Ritz in Piccadilly or a shopping trip to Harrods. Such treatment may seem outrageous to us today, but when they returned to their rooms at Trent Park in North London, they chatted to fellow prisoners about what they had not told the British.

### How did you first come across the story, and what sources did you use to research it?

I first came across the story from WWII veteran Fritz Lustig, who said that he had been a 'secret listener', and that no one had told the story of his unit. I had never heard of a secret listener! Fritz had fled Nazi Germany because of his Jewish background, enlisted in the British Army, and eventually transferred to intelligence work at Latimer House, a stately house in Buckinghamshire. It was there that he listened into the prisoners' conversations from a special tech room called the 'M Room' (the M stood for 'miked').

Fritz was one of 103 secret listeners – all Jewish refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe. After the war, they were never told how their work had helped, because the files were all

marked as top secret and closed. In the late 1990s, they were released into the National Archives. I promised Fritz that I would write a book about it, and used these thousands of files, as well as interviews with the last three surviving listeners and Fritz's wife Susan. I dived into the attics of relatives, who shared their private letters and photographs.

### How successful was the mission, and what does it tell us about the Allies (and the Nazis) more generally?

The mission was successful in finding out military secrets, including technology such as the V-1 ('doodlebug') and V-2 rocket,

Hitler's battle plans and development of the atomic bomb. The success of the operation tells us much about the ingenuity of the Allies in being able to understand human psychology and how to cleverly gain Nazi secrets without resorting to harsh techniques.

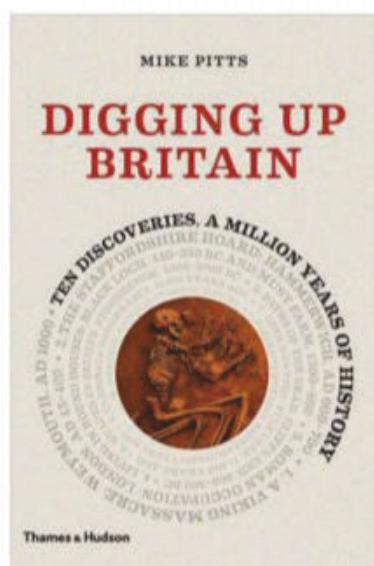


**"Historians have yet to fully analyse how this mission aided the war effort"**

### How would you like this book to change how people view the World War II, and the importance of intelligence missions throughout it?

I would like to deepen our understanding of the major campaigns of the war. This work is still in its infancy because historians have yet to fully analyse how this mission aided every campaign – from the Battle of Britain in 1940 to the D-Day Landings in

June 1944. It was said, in intelligence circles, that as late as February 1945 the Allies could have lost the war without the information coming out of Trent Park and Bletchley Park. For me, the excitement is also about what has yet to be discovered amongst these thousands of files. Without this operation, Germany could have developed its atomic bomb and wiped out any last trace of democracy in Europe.

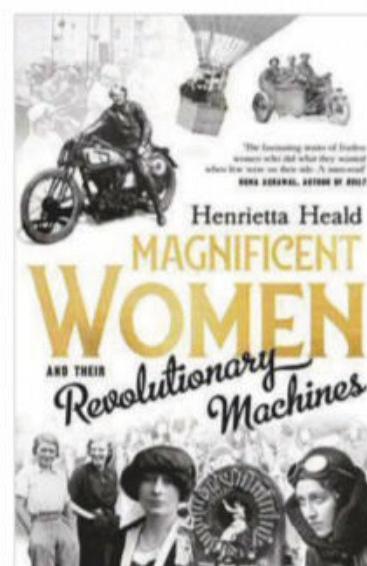


## Digging Up Britain: Ten Discoveries, a Million Years of History

By Mike Pitts

Thames and Hudson, £24.95, HB, 304 pages

Pleasingly structured in reverse chronological order – as archaeological treasures are unearthed, with the oldest last – this history of ancient Britain brings the distant past to vibrant life. Viking massacres, the mysteries of Stonehenge, subterranean cannibals: there's plenty to get stuck into here. Such stories, as well as those of the experts who made the finds, help convey the thrill of discovery.



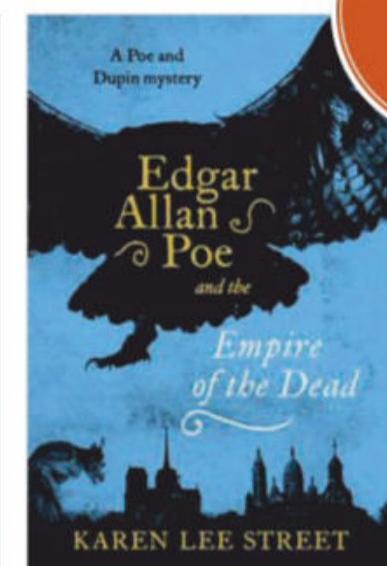
## Magnificent Women and Their Revolutionary Machines

By Henrietta Heald

Unbound, £20, HB, 400 pages

At its heart, this is a group biography of the Women's Engineering Society, an organisation founded in the UK in 1919 to help women escape the confines of the home and pursue rewarding careers. Yet Henrietta Heald also spins her story outward, taking in the ways in which the society's members became pioneers not just in engineering and technology but also politics, suffrage, and social reform.

HISTORICAL  
FICTION

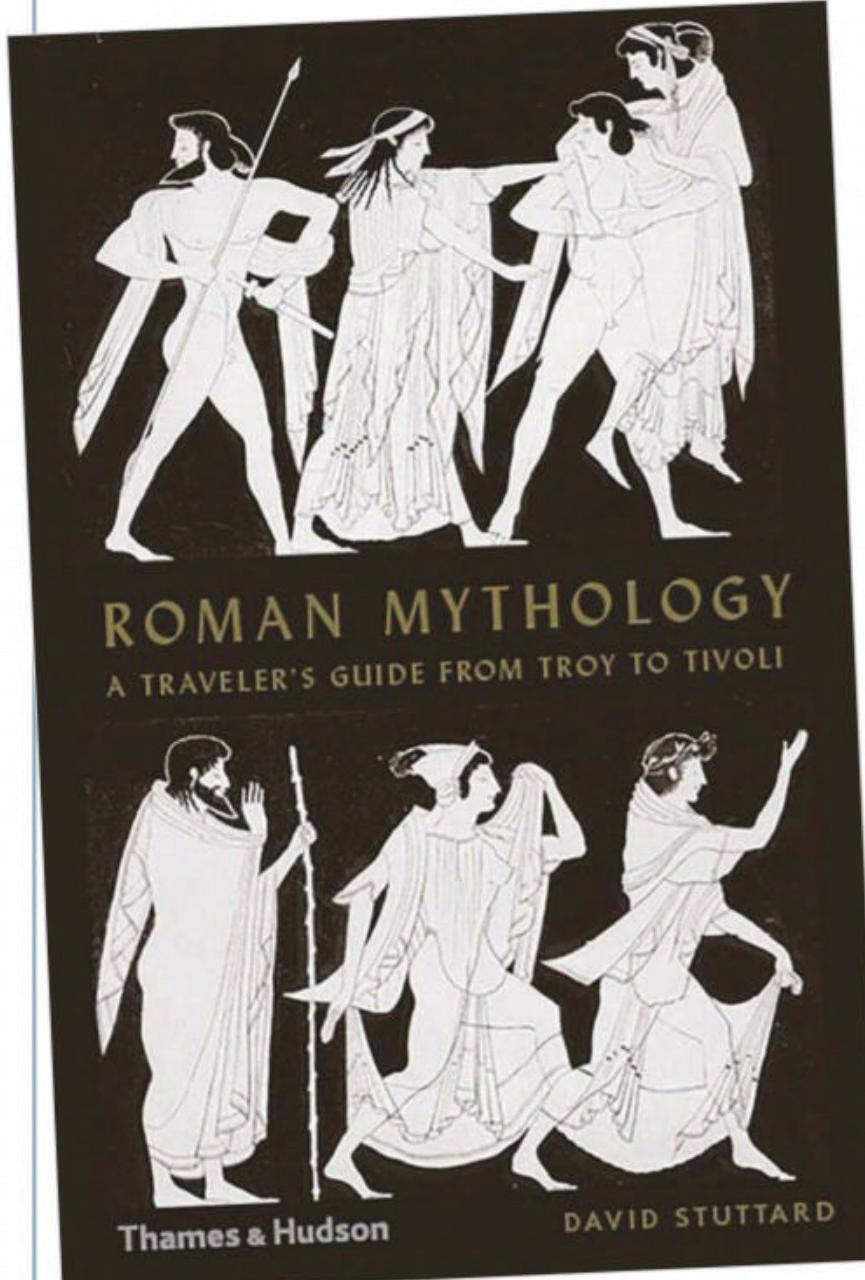


## Edgar Allan Poe and The Empire of the Dead

By Karen Lee Street

Point Blank, £9.99, paperback, 368 pages

The third in Karen Lee Street's 'Poe and Dupin mystery' series – which feature real-life Gothic author Edgar Allan Poe teaming up with one of his fictional creations, the detective C Auguste Dupin – sees the duo arrive in Paris in 1849. As you might expect from a plot featuring those central characters, the result is a heady mix of the macabre and the enigmatic, blending catacombs, ghoulish crimes, and a plot to rule France.

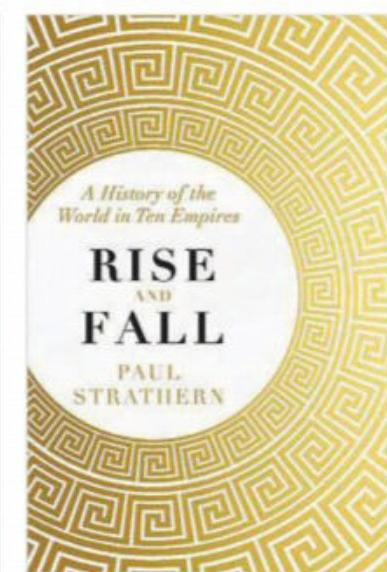


## Roman Mythology: A Traveller's Guide from Troy to Tivoli

By David Stuttard

Thames and Hudson, £14.95,  
hardback, 272 pages

The ancient Roman empire was shrouded in legend and fable: its capital, for instance, was supposedly founded by warring brothers raised by a she-wolf. This beautifully produced book maps such myths on to the civilisation's geography, offering both a guide to its sites (in Italy and beyond) and an overview of how they were shaped by stories of bloodthirsty leaders, mischievous monkeys, and multi-headed hounds.

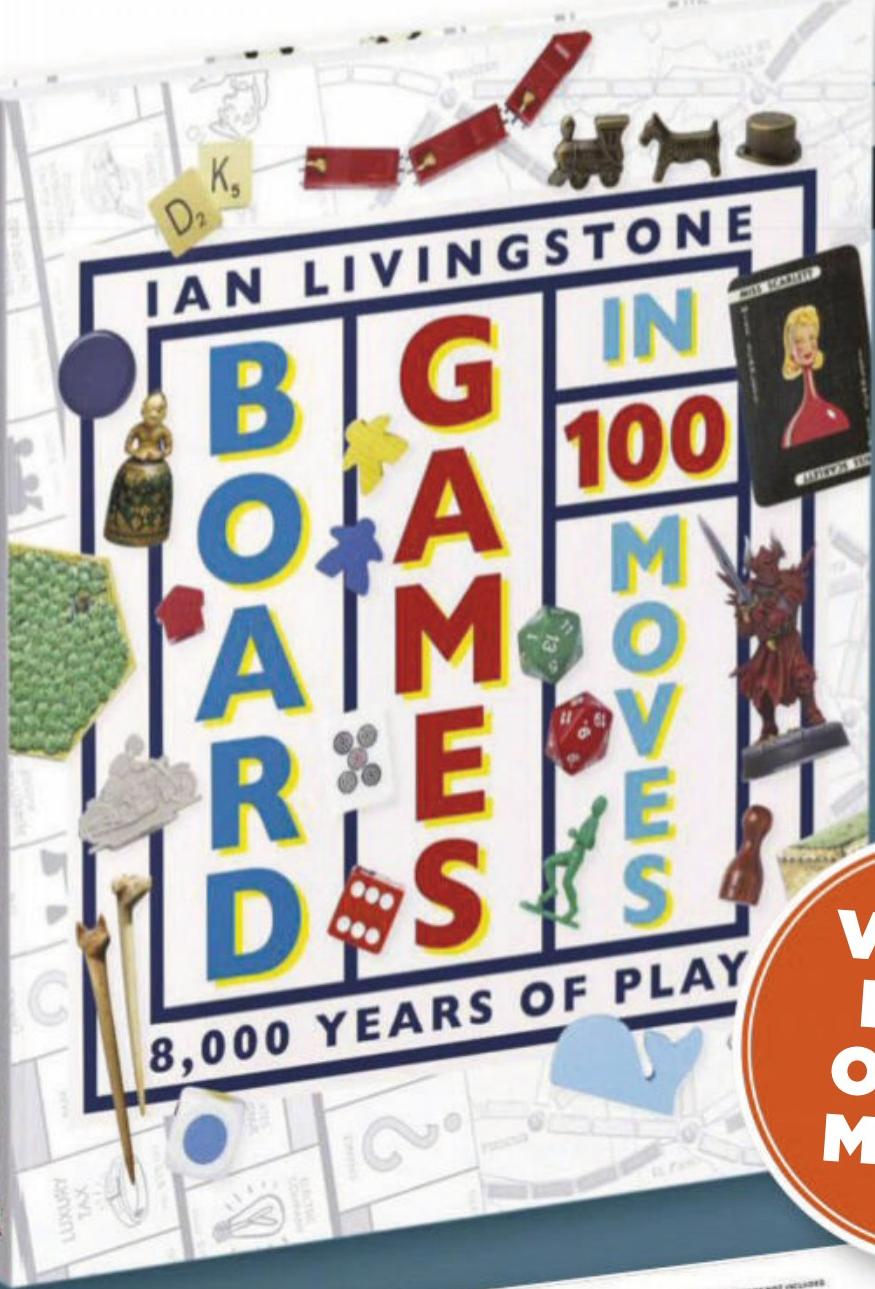


## Rise and Fall: A History of the World in Ten Empires

By Paul Strathern

Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99, HB, 272 pages

This is global history at its most epic, charting the ascent and descent of major civilisations across thousands of years. Each chapter focuses on an empire – Aztec, Ottoman, British – and chronicles how it developed, its strengths and weaknesses, and what eventually led to its fall. The roles of individuals aren't forgotten amid such breadth, with titans such as Genghis Khan and William Wilberforce making appearances.



VISUAL  
BOOK  
OF THE  
MONTH

## Board Games in 100 Moves

By Ian Livingstone and James Wallis

Dorling Kindersley, £14.99, hardback, 176 pages

Boardgames have enjoyed a recent renaissance, and this entertaining history ably explains their enduring appeal. From ancient classics such as chess and Go to more recent favourites, it's likely the photos will prompt vivid bouts of nostalgia. The book explores what has changed over the course of centuries, and which elements have remained the same. Taking in arguments about the origins of backgammon to the collectible-card mania of the 1990s, this – aptly – is hugely enjoyable stuff.



### PAPER AND PRINT

As paper became available in the 1400s, the nature of games changed, becoming more complex and flexible, more dynamic and transportable. They also developed into attractive, highly decorated items without having to involve hand-carved sets or inlaid boards. Plus their rules became standardised and recorded in rule books for posterity.

*Right: The Game of the Goose, the first printed board game, printed quality paper from Italy, printed in England in 1517. The French edition from 1690. Grand Jeu de l'Oie is held in the Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris. Above: Crosses playing card detail from Game of the Goose.*



Many of games you love make an appearance, as well as several some people love to hate...

### Who Goes First?

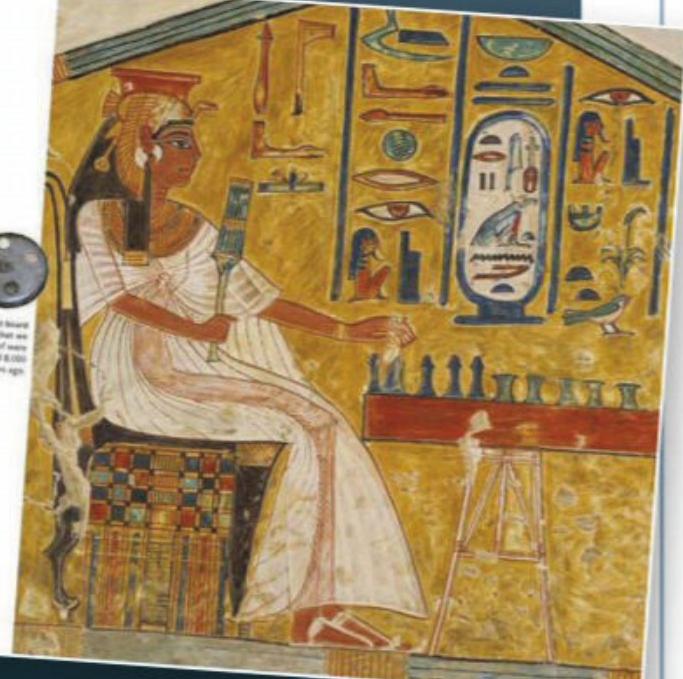
What's the oldest game you know?

**G**eesh is a pretty good guess. It's 1,400 years old, maybe a little more. But in game terms that makes it a teenager. Backgammon has it beaten by a couple of centuries, dating to 4000s. Nine Men's Morris goes back even further. Its origins are obscure but the Romans definitely played it and transported it across their empire and beyond, making it at least two millennia old. We know that Go, the great game of China, was being played in 510BC because it's described in the ancient narrative history book *Zuo Zhuan*.

#### Senet: an ancient contender

Senet and the Royal Game of Ur have all of those beans. The earliest Royal Game of Ur boards date from around 2600BC, or at least 4300 years ago. And Senet, also known as the "game of passing", is 500 years older than that. In fact the Egyptian Hieroglyphic for "passage" is a stylised Senet board – playing on dual meanings of players passing each other in play and, as the game took on spiritual significance, passage into the afterlife after death. These are games that are older, but as they were created before the human race could write, we have no way of knowing what they were called, how they were played, who played them, or why.

But we do know that Senet was played in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Egypt and Iran, and Greece, all with similar stones or extra marks. These appear to look like the beans used to play.



## READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

### BEHIND THE IMAGE

I'd like to shed some more light on the snapshot of a lone American Civil War general that featured in your May 2019 issue. The soldier floating on his makeshift pontoon is in fact Union Army Brigadier General Herman Haupt, a civil engineer who became Chief of Construction and



used for inspecting bridge foundations.

**Larry Lovett**, by email

**"The pontoon he is depicted paddling is actually of his own design"**

Transportation, US Military Railroads. The pontoon he is depicted paddling is actually of his own design and was

### Editor replies:

Thank you for your comments, Larry. It's always fascinating to discover some of the history and

### ICONIC OUTLAW

Our September 2019 cover feature explored the history of Robin Hood and the outlaws who inspired his legend. We received many letters from readers wanting to put forward their favourite film representations of the medieval outlaw. Here's a selection of comments...

I was so pleased you chose to do an article on Robin Hood. I've just started as a costumed guide

at Sherwood Forest, and I am also currently writing a book about the legend, so it was great timing! For me, there will never be anyone who tops Michael Praed (from the 1980s TV series *Robin of Sherwood*) – he set the bar for every Robin who came after him, and no one has reached it yet.

**Annie Welton**, via Facebook

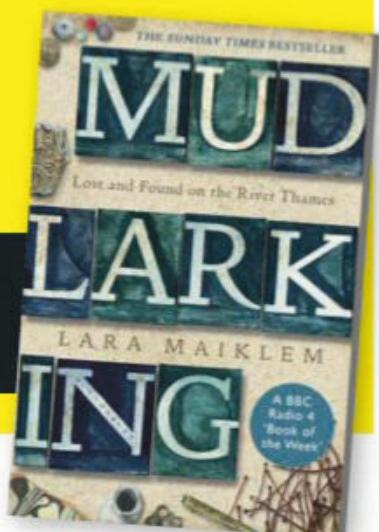
In response to your Robin Hood article asking for suggestions as to our favourite depiction of the



### RAFT OF IDEAS

**Herman Haupt and his pontoon appeared in our May 2019 issue**

**Larry receives a hardback copy of *Mud Larking: Lost and Found on the River Thames*, by Lara Maiklem**



character, I do not think we have a favourable depiction as none to date are realistic enough. I suspect the closest depiction would be a 14th-century *Peaky Blinders*-esque movie.

**Ryan Cudworth**, by email

When I think of Robin Hood, I always picture Richard Greene (*The Adventures of Robin Hood* TV series, 1955). He was handsome, dashing and had a great voice. That ITV show was simply the best. I loved it as a child, and still do.

**Francis Craft**, by email

I have to say I loved the recent Robin Hood article. It was so informative and well written with lots of great images from the past; it was a joy to read.

**SHOOT TO THRILL**  
One of the few things all iterations of Robin Hood possess is a mastery of the longbow

I have always wondered about the origins of Robin Hood but have never found any real answers so it was great to find out more about the man in green tights.

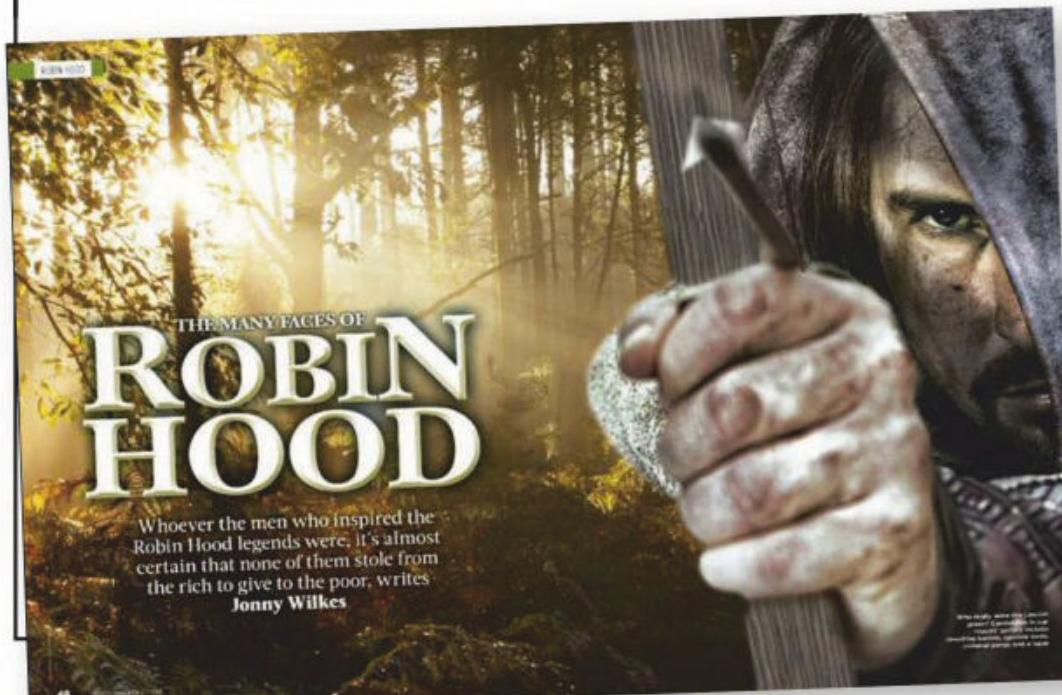
**Richard Ives**, Eastbourne

Arguably the best Robin Hood on screen was Errol Flynn (*The Adventures of Robin Hood*, 1938). Olivia de Havilland was a gorgeous Maid Marian and the great Basil Rathbone the best villain, as Sir Guy of Gisbourne.

**Sudip Bhaduri**, via Twitter

### TRAVELLER'S TALES

In your article about Ferdinand Magellan (September 2019) a key player was omitted. Italian scholar Antonio Pigafetta who was also on the voyage, and he chronicled what the small fleet of ships faced, achieved and perpetrated. Simply put, without Pigafetta, one of the 18 survivors to make it back to





## THE PLOT THICKENS...

Who did the Gunpowder Plotters truly want to place on the throne after assassinating James I and VI?

Spain, we would not know half of what happened.

**Keith Deverick**, by email

## GUNPOWDER DEBATE

Your recent A-Z of gangs and gangsters (September 2019), which featured Guy Fawkes of the gunpowder plotters, got me thinking about an old historical debate. Many historians are adamant that the Catholic Gunpowder Conspirators intended to put James I and VI's daughter Elizabeth on the

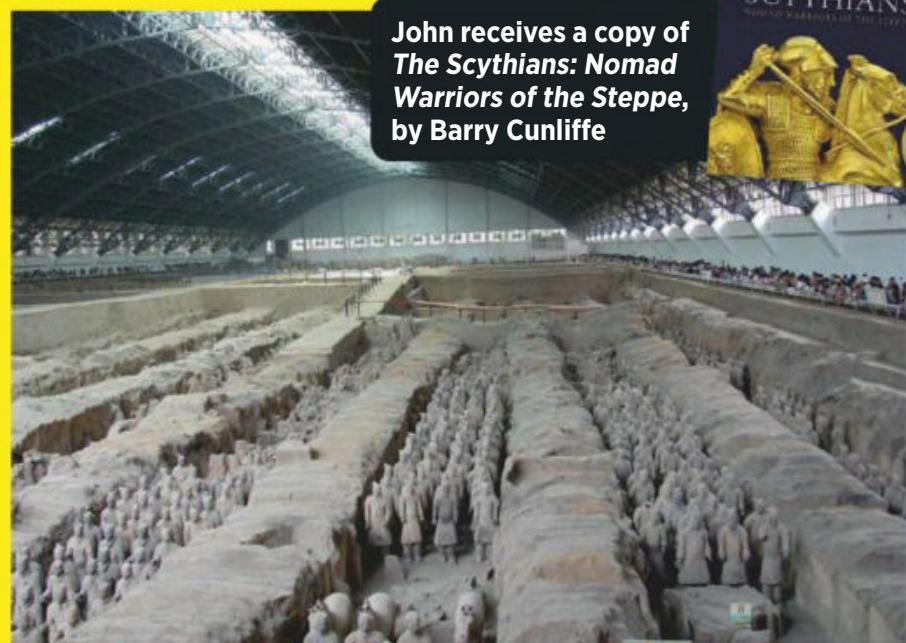
throne after his intended death. But she was Protestant and only a child, so she would not have been able to rule in her own right. And she would hardly have wanted to co-operate with the men who had murdered her father. Arbella Stuart was a well-educated Catholic with arguably a stronger claim to the throne than her cousin James, whom presumably she hated. I guess this is a tired old argument, but isn't there more to this story?

**Frank Kingston**, Surrey



## PICTURE POSTCARD

Thanks to BBC History Revealed reader John Grove who emailed this image of the Terracotta Warriors, protectors of the tomb of China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang.



If you'd like to share your thoughts and images of a historical trip you've made – and possibly be featured on our Letters page – send them to us using the details in Get in Touch (to the right).

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## ISSUE 74 – NOVEMBER 2019

BBC History Revealed is published by Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited under licence from BBC Studios who help fund new BBC programmes

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**Basic annual subscription rates**  
**UK** £64.87 **Ire/Europe** £67.99  
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Suite 500, Virginia Beach VA 23451

## ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 71 are:

**Gwyn D**, Salford

**V Poulston**, Congleton

**Claire Gooder**, Bournemouth

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of Jenni Murray's *A History of the World in 21 Women* in hardback.

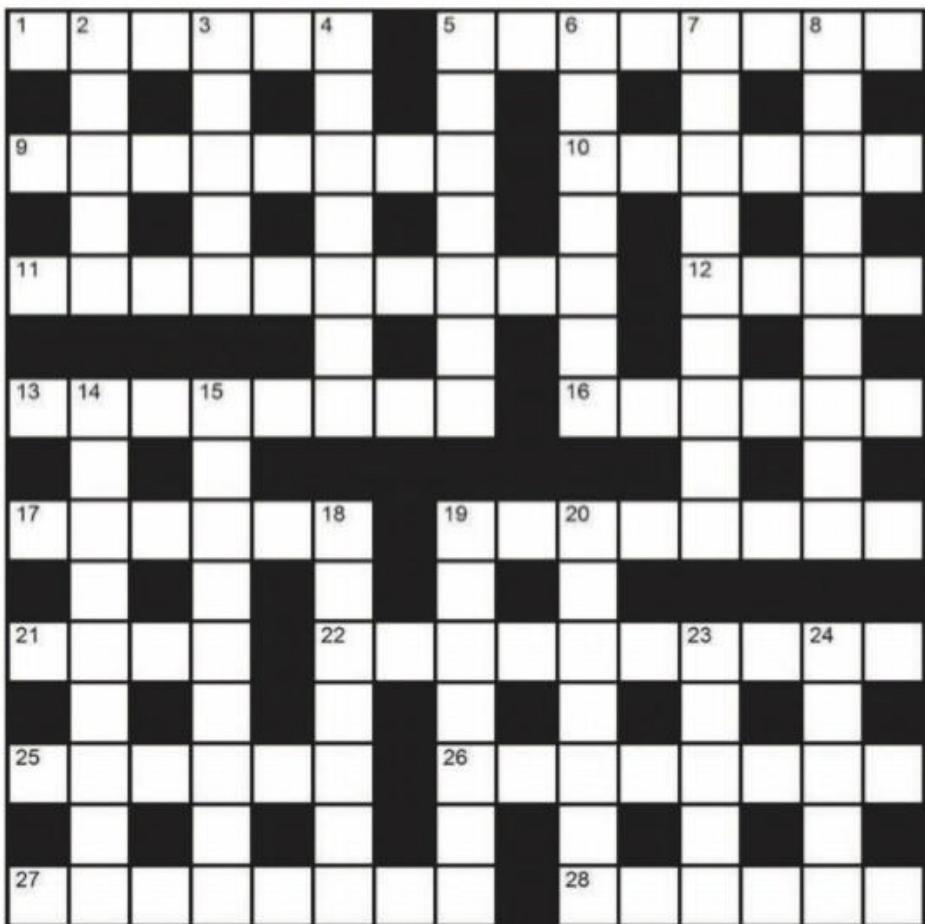


## CHANCE TO WIN

## CROSSWORD N° 74

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



## ACROSS

- 1** The \_\_\_, 1879 George Meredith novel (6)
- 5** In antiquity, an imperial power of North Africa (8)
- 9** Provisional seat of the Kingdom of Italy, 1943–44 (8)
- 10** *The Beautiful And \_\_\_*, 1922 novel by F Scott Fitzgerald (6)
- 11** Clown in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* (10)
- 12** See 15 Down
- 13** James A \_\_\_ (1831–81), 20th President of the US (8)
- 16** Capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia (6)
- 17** PT \_\_\_ (1810–91), US showman (6)
- 19** *The \_\_\_*, fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen (3,5)

- 21** Northumbrian monk and scholar, d735 (4)
- 22** South African city, founded by the Boers in 1851 (10)
- 25** Capital of Turkey since 1923 (6)
- 26** German conglomerate, notorious for its links with the Nazi Party (1,1,6)
- 27** Welsh name for the island of Ramsey, home to the 6th-century hermit St Justinian (4,4)
- 28** Historical Native American tribe of South Carolina (6)

## DOWN

- 2** Greta \_\_\_ (1905–90), Swedish film actress (5)
- 3** Order of classical architecture (5)
- 4** Southern terminus of the Iron Curtain, according to Churchill (7)
- 5** Hymn tune by Jessie Seymour Irvine, often used as a setting for Psalm 23 (7)
- 6** Richard \_\_\_ (1902–79), composer known for partnerships with Lorenz Hart and Oscar Hammerstein II (7)
- 7** West Yorkshire constituency, noted historically for large Labour majorities (9)
- 8** Incendiary weapon used by the Byzantine Empire (5,4)
- 14** Legendary king of Mycenae (9)
- 15/12** 1939 James Joyce work (9,4)
- 18** Kent resort from which a 1387 naval battle takes its name (7)
- 19** Gioachino \_\_\_ (1792–1868), composer of works including *The Barber Of Seville* (7)
- 20** \_\_\_ Affair, French political scandal of 1894–1906 (7)
- 23** Lord \_\_\_ (1788–1824), Romantic poet (5)
- 24** Historically, an elected official; a magistrate (5)

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The competition is open to all UK residents (inc. Channel Islands), aged 18 or over, except Immediate Media Co Bristol Ltd employees or contractors, and anyone connected with the competition or their direct family members. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions and that their name and county may be released if they win. Only one entry per person.

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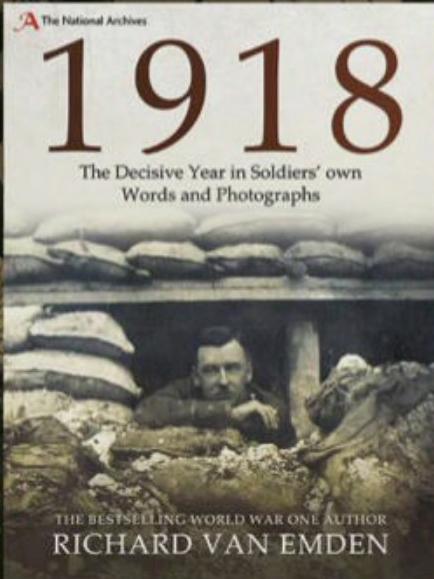
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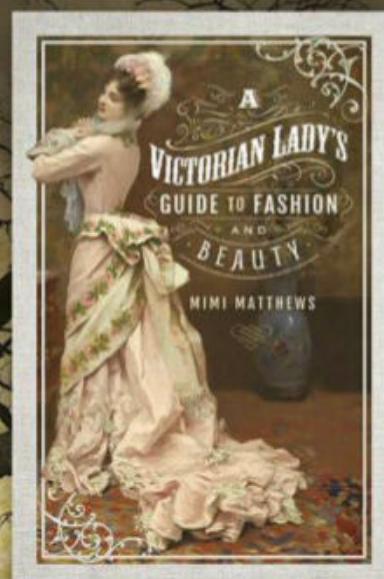
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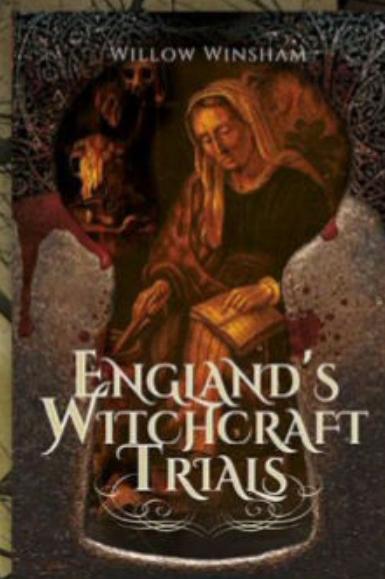
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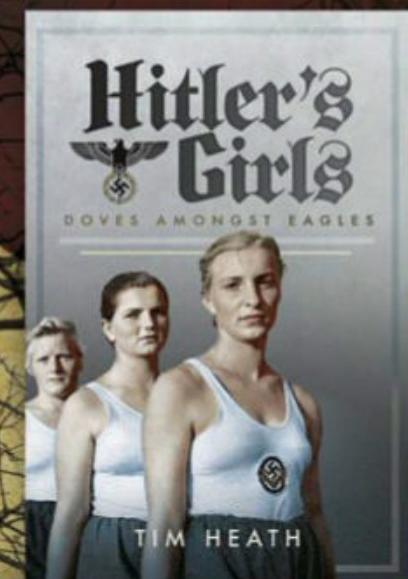
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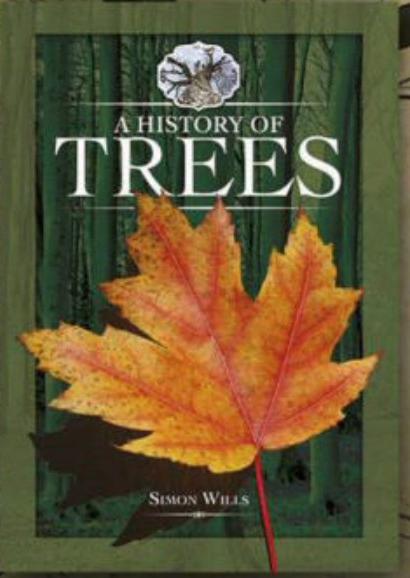
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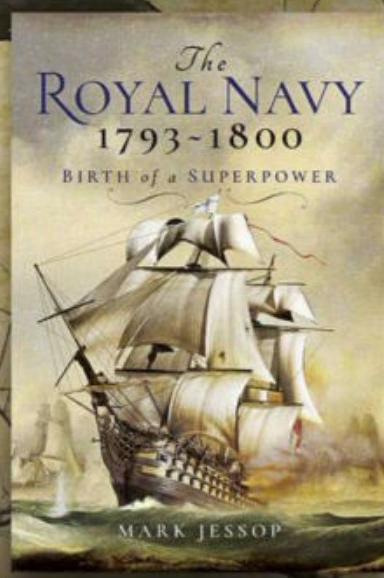
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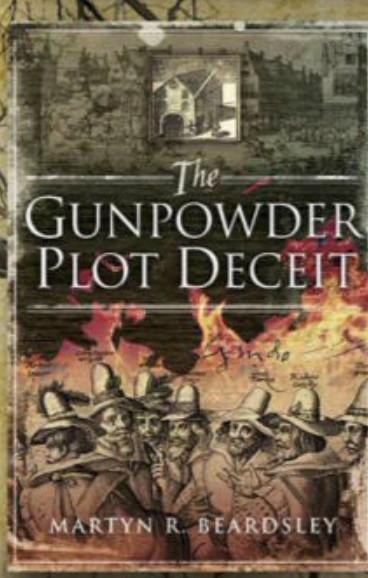
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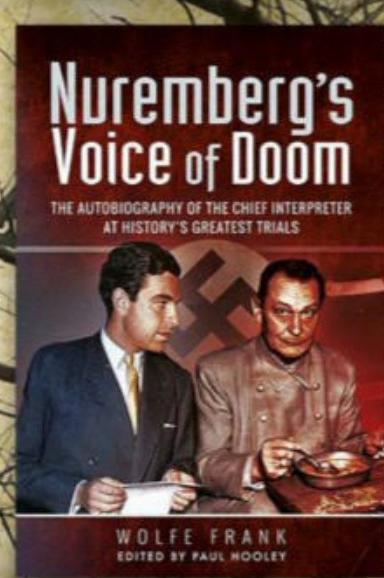
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